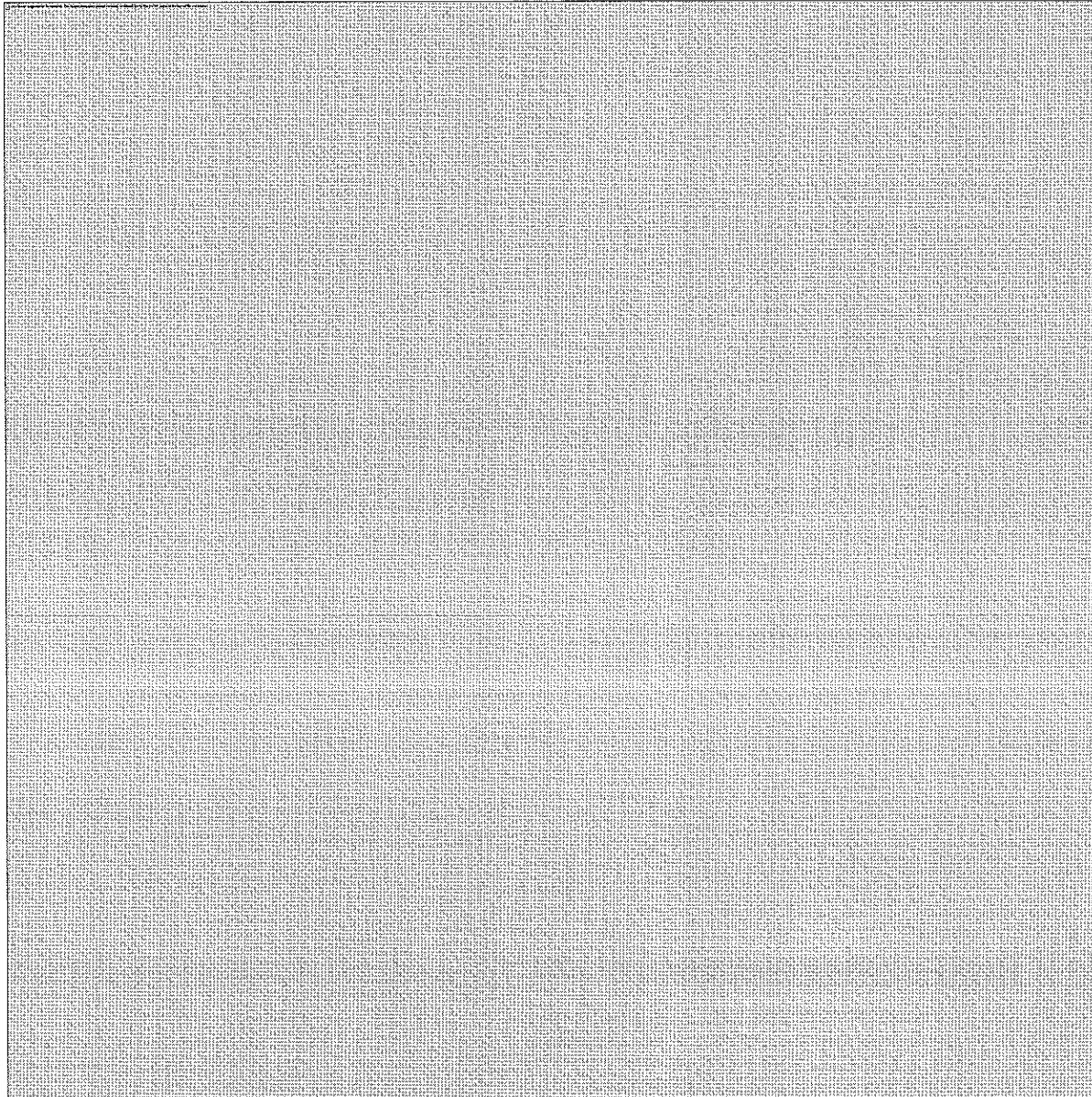


From: Ohio Chamber of Commerce
Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2017 10:30 AM
To: Rep07
Subject: Agenda Announced for Policy Conference at Salt Fork



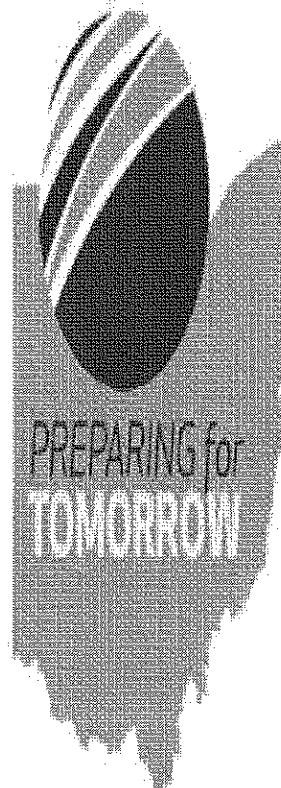
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Policy Conference Agenda Announced

Dear General Assembly Member,

The 2017 Policy Conference at Salt Fork is only four weeks away! Policy sessions are scheduled for Thursday and Friday morning of the three-day conference which will include several speakers on topics related to the issues being discussed on Capitol Square. While best-selling author J.D. Vance will be our Wednesday night speaker, we are excited to officially announce the lineup for this year's policy session speakers:



Thursday, September 7

8:45 - 9:30 AM

Tomorrow's Industry Disruptors

Stephanie Hughes, Co-founder of Super-h

9:30 - 10:30 AM

Public Policy Implications of Industry Disruption

Andrew Thomas, Associate Professor of Marketing & International Business at the University of Akron

10:45 AM - Noon

Forces Shaping Site Selection

Michelle Comerford, Project Director and Industrial & Supply Chain Practice Leader at Biggins Lacy Shapiro & Company

Nate Green, Director of Economic development for the Montrose Group

Friday, September 8

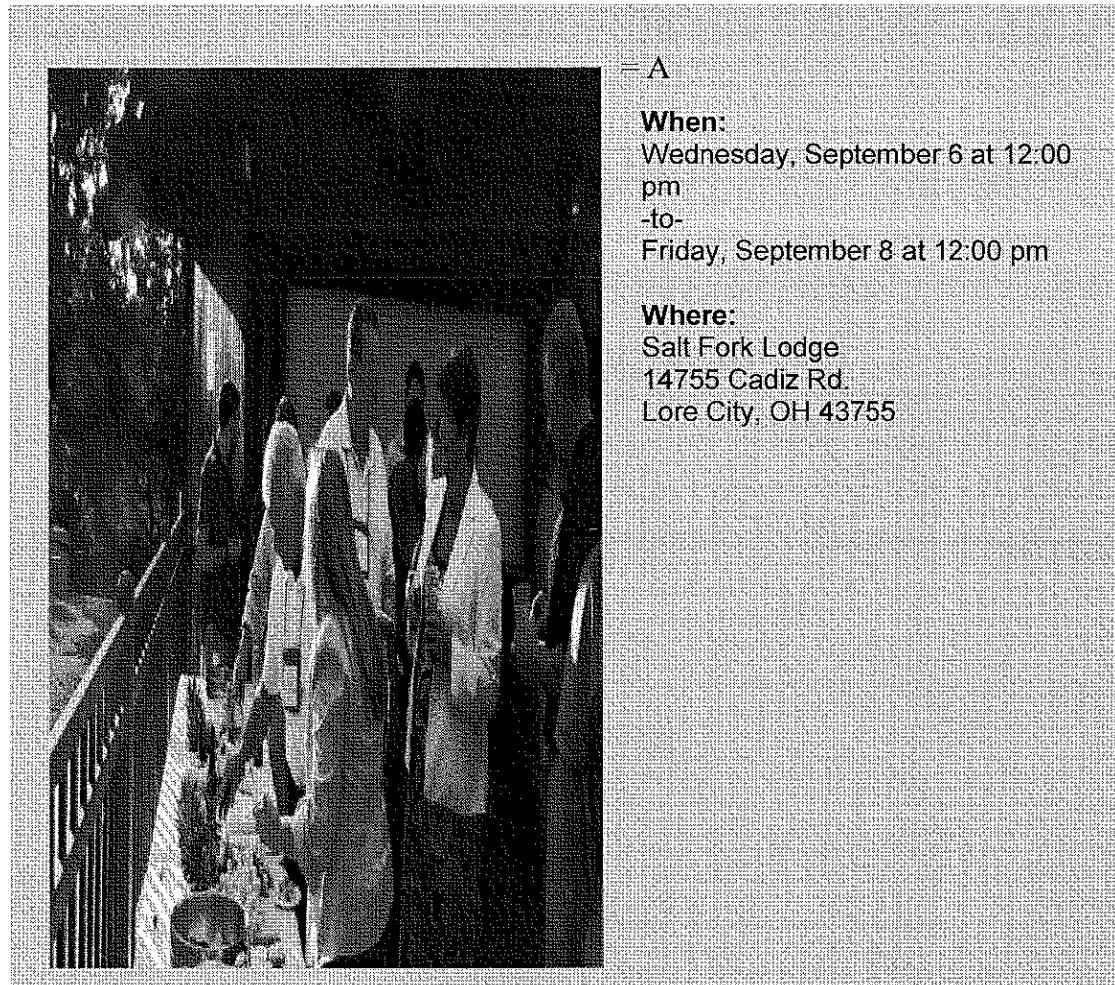
9:00 - 9:30 AM

Ohio's Prosperity Pulse

Brian Hicks, President, Ohio Chamber Research Foundation
Katie Koglman, Executive Director, Ohio Chamber Research Foundation
Fritz Wenzel, Pollster, Ohio Chamber Research Foundation

9:30 - 10:15 AM
The Trump Coalition in 2018
Roger Beckett, Executive Director of the Ashbrook Center at Ashland University

10:30 - 11:30 AM
Fall Legislative Preview
Senate President Larry Obhoff
Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko
Speaker Pro Tempore of the House Kirk Schuring
House Minority Leader Fred Strahorn
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When:
Wednesday, September 6 at 12:00 pm
-to-
Friday, September 8 at 12:00 pm

Where:
Salt Fork Lodge
14755 Cadiz Rd.
Lore City, OH 43755

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Agenda

Wednesday, September 6

12:00 p.m. Registration opens
Afternoon activities & box lunch
6:00 p.m. Poolside reception
7:00 p.m. Dinner & program
Hospitality Suites after program

Thursday, September 7

7:30 a.m. Buffet breakfast
8:30 a.m. Policy sessions
12:30 p.m. Afternoon activities
6:00 p.m. Poolside reception
7:00 p.m. Dinner & program
Hospitality Suites after program

Friday, September 8

7:30 a.m. Breakfast
8:30 a.m. Policy sessions
Noon Adjourn



REGISTER HERE

Lodging Accommodations/Roommate Information

Unfortunately, there are only a limited number of guest rooms available at the Salt Fork State Park Lodge. While the Ohio Chamber has reserved every one of them for our Policy Conference, there simply aren't enough to permit every guest to reserve his or her own room. As a result, you will likely have to share a room with another conference attendee. We cannot accommodate requests for individual rooms. If you do not request a roommate, we will assign you one. Entering a roommate's name on your registration form DOES NOT

register that roommate for the conference. They must fill out their own form or you must "add them as a guest" on your form.

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Registration Closes August 28!



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Ohio Chamber of Commerce | 230 E. Town St., Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by abrown@ohiochamber.com in collaboration with



Try it free today

From: Roger Beckett
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 10:12 AM
To: Rep07
Subject: Will you help us keep the Republic?

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Good morning,

230 years ago, as Benjamin Franklin was emerging from the Constitutional Convention, a woman called out to him asking, "What form of government have you given us, Dr. Franklin?" And he responded,

"A republic, Madame, if you can keep it."

Franklin knew that to sustain the American experiment in self-government, Americans needed to understand and appreciate the founding principles and pass them on to future generations.

Yet today so many high school and college graduates don't know the real story of America. Some even despise America.

How did this happen? Over the years, schools of education have focused on *how* to teach rather than *what* to teach. Teachers lack the knowledge and appreciation of American history they need to teach what it means to be an American.

But you and I can make a difference.

Here at the Ashbrook Center we are educating teachers and encouraging them to replace textbooks in their classrooms with primary documents — documents like the Constitution and the Federalist Papers.

We are transforming the way American history and civics are taught in classrooms across the country.

And with your generous support, Ashbrook will reach an entire generation of young people and give them the kind of education the Founders thought essential to protect American freedom.

Can I count on your help to live up to Dr. Franklin's challenge? Can I count on you to help preserve American freedom for our children and grandchildren?

I hope you will join me.

Best regards,

Roger L. Beckett
Executive Director

P.S. Test your knowledge of the Constitution with our [Constitution Day Quiz](#).



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From: Roger Beckett
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 10:02 AM
To: Rep07
Subject: Your Invitation: Join Ashbrook for an Evening with Brian Kilmeade - November 3

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Brian Kilmeade
Co-Host of *Fox & Friends*

Friday, November 3, 2017 at 7:30 PM
Mansfield's Renaissance Theatre
138 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, Ohio

Good morning,

I am pleased to invite you to attend the Second Peter W. Schramm Memorial Lecture with bestselling author **Brian Kilmeade** on Friday, November 3.

Kilmeade is co-host of the popular *Fox & Friends* morning program and host of the nationally syndicated radio program, *The Brian Kilmeade Show*.

Kilmeade will make history come alive with his telling of riveting true stories from our American history as he speaks about his new book, *Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans*. He will discuss the development of Jackson's character and bring you to the scene of one of the most pivotal battles in our nation's history.

To purchase tickets please contact Carrie Clever at the Ashbrook Center at 419-289-5411 or

c clever@ashbrook.org. Tickets for general seating in the Renaissance Theatre are available for \$20 each. A book signing will follow.

We are grateful to Samuel H. and Maria Miller and WMAN Radio for their generous support of the Peter W. Schramm Memorial Lecture.

Additional sponsorship opportunities are available and include a limited tickets for reserved seating as well a private reception and photo-op with Kilmeade before the evening's keynote address.

I hope to see you in Mansfield!

Warmest regards,

Roger Beckett
Executive Director

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401 College Avenue, Ashland, OH 44805

From: Roger Beckett
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 1:29 PM
To: Rep07
Subject: Reflecting on the Constitution: Today and Every Day

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"We can surely all agree that the Constitution itself means far more to our nation than a single holiday could ever reflect"

Wise words from Acting Assistant Attorney General Chad Readler's Constitution Day remarks at the Ashbrook Center on September 15th. In that spirit, I invite you to watch his full speech, which is now available online at [CSPAN.org](#).

Warmest Regards,

Roger Beckett
Executive Director

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From: Roger Beckett
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 3:49 PM
To: Rep07
Subject: Join Ashbrook in Mansfield: November 3rd with Brian Kilmeade

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Brian Kilmeade
Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans
The Second Peter W. Schramm Memorial Lecture

Friday, November 3, 2017 at 7:30 PM

Renaissance Theatre
138 Park Avenue West
Mansfield, Ohio



You're invited to the Second Peter W. Schramm Memorial Lecture with bestselling author **Brian Kilmeade** on Friday, November 3.

Kilmeade is co-host of the popular *Fox & Friends* morning program and host of the nationally syndicated radio program, *The Brian Kilmeade Show*.

Kilmeade will make history come alive with his telling of riveting true stories from our American history as he speaks about his new book, *Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans*. He will discuss the development of Jackson's character and bring you to the scene of one of the most pivotal battles in our nation's history.

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We are grateful to Samuel H. and Maria Miller and WMAN Radio for their generous support of the Peter W. Schramm Memorial Lecture.

Additional sponsorship opportunities are available at \$1,000 and include a private reception and photo-op with Brian Kilmeade.

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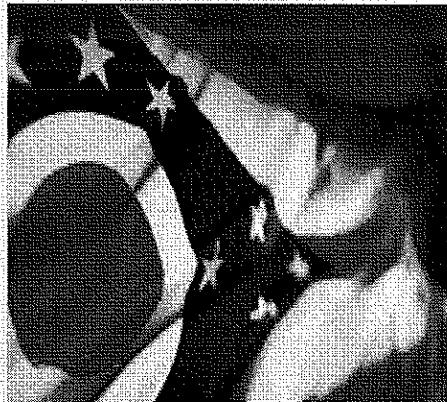
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[Ashbrook Center](#)
= 9 401 College Avenue, Ashland, OH 44805

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From: Columbus Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society
Sent: Wednesday, January 4, 2017 6:02 PM
To: Rep07
Subject: Sign Up for The Federalist Society's January Event!

You are invited to the following event:

RESOLVED: KEEP THE FDA AWAY FROM MY E-CIG



[Attend Event](#)

Event to be held at the following time,
date, and location:

Thursday, January 12, 2017 from 12:00
PM to 1:30 PM (EST)

The Athletic Club of Columbus
136 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

[View Map](#)

Share this event:



Resolved: Keep the FDA Away From My E-Cig

The FDA now regulates e-cigarettes. Should it? Will regulation improve public health? Will it cost American lives? Please join us for a lunchtime debate.

Where: Athletic Club of Columbus

When: High noon on January 12, 2017

Arguing for the Resolution:

Jonathan H. Adler

Johan Verheij Memorial Professor of Law

Case Western Reserve University School of
Law

Arguing Against the Resolution:

Micah Berman

Assistant Professor of Public Health and Law
The Ohio State University Moritz College of
Law

Moderating:

Robert Alt

President and Chief Executive Officer
The Buckeye Institute

The cost is \$20 (\$15 if you already paid Columbus Lawyers Chapter dues for the 2016-2017 program year, and \$5 for students). Lunch is included. R.S.V.P. by *January 10* to guarantee your seat, meal, and pre-printed nametag. Call Ben Flowers at (614) 281-3647 or email ColumbusFedSoc@Gmail.com with any questions. To join or renew your dues for the Columbus Lawyers Chapter, please pay the dues through the Eventbrite website or bring a

check for an additional \$25 payable to the
Federalist Society.

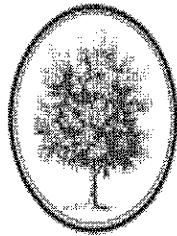
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Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society the organizer. To stop
receiving invitations from this organizer, you can [unsubscribe](#).

Eventbrite, Inc. | 155 5th St, 7th Floor | San Francisco, CA 94103

*Event ticketing and online
registration by*

Eventbrite

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, January 4, 2017 10:08 PM
To: Rep07
Subject: Kasich signs significant civil asset forfeiture reform into law for Ohio



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Daniel Dew, Criminal Justice Fellow
(614) 224-4422 or Daniel@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 4, 2017

Civil Asset Forfeiture Reforms Become Law in Ohio

We're not saying it makes up for the cringe-worthy Fiesta Bowl loss, but we ARE saying we are thrilled about this New Year's victory for property rights in the Buckeye State!

Earlier today, Ohio Governor John Kasich signed into law sweeping reforms to Ohio's civil asset forfeiture process. This reform is most definitely an idea whose time had come. Civil asset forfeiture laws--believe it or not--had previously allowed the government to take private property without convicting or even *charging* the property owner of a crime. Yes, you read that right.

It was outrageous, and your Buckeye Institute had been leading the charge to get this situation fixed.

A cursory review of the Constitution and your basic sense of justice may tell you that a person ought to need to be convicted of a crime to be punished by the government and have his/her property forfeited. Sadly, that was not the case in Ohio--until now.

This new legislation requires a conviction in most cases before government can take ownership of a person's property--a policy that Buckeye has long championed.

Daniel Dew, Buckeye's Criminal Justice Fellow, said, "The Buckeye Institute applauds Governor Kasich, and heartily congratulates legislators including Rep. Rob McColley, Rep. Tom Brinkman, Senator Kris Jordan, Senator Larry Obhof, Senator Bill Coley, Senator Bill Seitz, and Senator Cecil Thomas who fought for this sorely-needed reform to our previously unacceptable civil asset forfeiture procedures in Ohio."

Representative Rob McColley, the primary sponsor, complimented our work on this issue in saying, "The Buckeye Institute provided tremendous policy expertise to those of us in the legislature fighting to reform civil asset forfeiture and defend the property rights of all Ohioans. Buckeye's good work and leadership on criminal justice reforms more broadly--and on civil asset forfeiture specifically--help to ensure that Ohio is a leader in protecting our citizens."

Our explanatory policy brief on civil asset forfeiture can be found [here](#). Our interested party testimony that was offered in the Senate and House can be found [here](#) and [here](#), respectively. Op-eds published by our policy experts on the issue are available for your review [here](#) and [here](#).

Groups spanning the spectrum philosophically from the left to the right including the Coalition for Public Safety, the ACLU of Ohio, Faith & Freedom Coalition, and U.S. Justice Action Network worked together with us to advance this necessary policy change that benefits all Ohioans. FreedomWorks ran a grassroots campaign as well, for which we are grateful.

If you need help understanding the ins and outs of this issue or, worse, explaining it to your big government friends, [here is an oversimplified yet amusing and informative explanation](#) of civil asset forfeiture. (Fair warning: there is some naughty language, as the video clip is from an HBO television show.)

#

BACKGROUND: Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

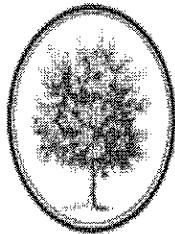
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, January 5, 2017 4:24 PM
To: Rep07
Subject: More Legislation Based on Buckeye Policy Ideas Signed into Law Yesterday



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Greg Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst
(614) 224-4422 or Greg@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 5, 2016

More Legislation Based on Buckeye Policy Ideas

Signed into Law Yesterday

COLUMBUS, OHIO--Late Wednesday afternoon, Governor John Kasich signed legislation to allow medical professionals to receive continuing education credits for donating their time to provide charity medical care for low income and rural Ohioans who otherwise would not have access to quality healthcare services.

This law rewards medical professionals including doctors and nurses who want to help, and does not cost taxpayers *any* additional funding.

There is no sweeter music to our ears at Buckeye than good policy that solves real problems, helps people, and doesn't cost taxpayer money.... To be honest, sometimes we even choke up and get teary thinking about saving taxpayer dollars. We're policy geeks, we really can't help it. It's what we do.

We think about this stuff day and night so you can rest easy knowing that we're looking out for you and coming up with innovative policy ideas that don't involve more government. Yikes... even just saying "more government" out loud gives us the heebie jeebies.

The Buckeye Institute first recommended this policy to legislators back in 2015 when we discussed several different ways to improve access to healthcare in Ohio. Buckeye later commended legislators for proposing our policy, and subsequently reminded them of the benefits of this awesome policy idea we had during lame duck. (If you don't know what lame duck legislative sessions are--you aren't alone--but we gave the history of the lame duck term here hoping to demystify it.)

By making charity care more rewarding for doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals to voluntarily serve low income and underserved patients, the amount of healthcare delivered to those Ohioans will increase at no cost to taxpayers. This is a superior alternative to expanding failed government programs, especially as those very same programs often deliver unacceptable results to those they claim to help.

"Finding ways to increase healthcare services to those most in need is a major challenge that will require many policy changes. Buckeye is on it. Yesterday, Ohio embraced one of these helpful policy changes that we proposed in 2015, which takes a step down the road to improving healthcare for all Ohioans regardless of income or location," said Rea S. Hederman Jr., Executive Vice President of The Buckeye Institute.

The Buckeye Institute is proud to be a national leader on healthcare policy issues, and is grateful for the efforts of both Representative Robert Sprague and Senator Peggy Lehner for taking up this important policy issue--and seeing it through to fruition. A hearty O-H to both of you!

#

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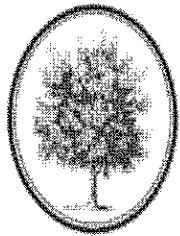
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 4:45 PM
To: Rep07
Subject: Have you heard the one about the Buckeye lawyers who fought city hall?*



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Daniel Dew, Criminal Justice Fellow
(614) 224-4422 or Daniel@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 10, 2017

*Don't take city hall literally in this case. Your Buckeye Institute is actually taking on the entire federal government. And, unfortunately, this isn't a punch line to a bad lawyer joke either!

The Buckeye Institute Files Prominent Brief in U.S. Supreme Court to Protect First Amendment Rights--Vows to Fight Attempts to Silence Free Speech at All Costs

COLUMBUS, OHIO--On Tuesday, The Buckeye Institute filed a legal brief with the United States Supreme Court in an all-out legal battle to keep you, our dear friends/investors/supporters, off a government list.

Besides our inherent distaste for government lists on principle, the particular list at issue here violates your First Amendment rights. This list will be used to intimidate you for partnering with Buckeye and other organizations of your choosing.

Here is the backstory: the federal government is going after one of our sister think tanks--Independence Institute in Colorado--and trying to compel it to produce its donor list. Those of you who have been with Buckeye for a while know that our own response to the same

inquiry by IRS agents was a pretty forceful "not one damn name" during our own politically-motivated audit 3 years ago.

We didn't give a single name from our list to the government then, and we aren't about to stand by while the government tries to force our good friends in Colorado doing solid policy work there to give in either.

In fact, The Buckeye Institute joined with State Policy Network to lead the coalition of 24 state-based policy organizations in fighting this unconstitutional effort to erode your ability to speak freely and give in privacy to the causes and organizations you believe in.

The government claims that because an ad by Independence Institute referenced specific candidates within 60 days of the election, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act requires Independence Institute to disclose its entire list of donors to the government.

After all, the government would never misuse or abuse a list of people who donate to a cause with which it disagrees, *right*? Unfortunately, at The Buckeye Institute we know all too well what the government can do with a list (*cough, ahem, Lois Lerner, cough*).

501(c)(3) organizations, like yours truly here, are limited by IRS rules and regulations from advocating for or against political candidates. However, when educating the public on good and bad policy, it is nearly impossible to do so without mentioning the names of those who make the good or bad policies into law.

The ad in question did not advocate for or against any candidates; it just referenced them by name.

Anonymity is a pillar of free speech that your Buckeye Institute will continue to fight for. Without anonymity or privacy, an oppressive majority can intimidate people and organizations into silence--a hallmark of tyranny.

At Buckeye, we will continue to do everything in our power to keep you off of a government list for exercising your God-given and constitutionally recognized right to free

speech. Your support of The Buckeye Institute or any other causes you believe in is your own business, and we will not report your donation to the government. (Remember the media shock at the number of people who voted for Trump? There is a good reason we have secret ballots and don't make it public record whom you supported for president either.)

If you'd like to read our awesome brief in full, be forewarned. While our amazing attorney-in-chief and president Robert Alt swears it is a page-turner, we would strongly advise you to have some coffee first. It was written by some impressive legal minds representing you extraordinarily well at the highest court in the land, and we just want you to have the energy necessary to stick with it to the end. We aren't Alabama around here. We finish strong. Enjoy!

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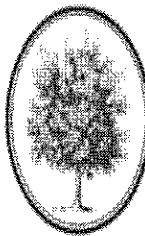
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 9:34 AM
To: Rep07
Subject: Are you in Columbus and open for lunch tomorrow?



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

The Buckeye Institute's President and CEO Robert Alt is moderating a debate for the Columbus Lawyers Chapter of The Federalist Society.

You're all invited! Heck, even your least favorite in-laws and weird neighbors with the mismatched Christmas lights are too. We don't discriminate against anyone who would like to hear a good regulatory debate. Bring any friends, colleagues, or family you would like (after registering them). See details below.

Topic: The FDA now regulates e-cigarettes. Should it? Will regulation improve public health? Will it cost American lives?

Resolved: Keep the FDA Away From My E-Cig

Arguing for the Resolution:

Jonathan H. Adler

Johan Verheij Memorial Professor of Law
Case Western Reserve University School of Law

Arguing Against the Resolution:

Micah Berman

Assistant Professor of Public Health and Law
The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law

Moderating:

Robert Alt

President and Chief Executive Officer
The Buckeye Institute

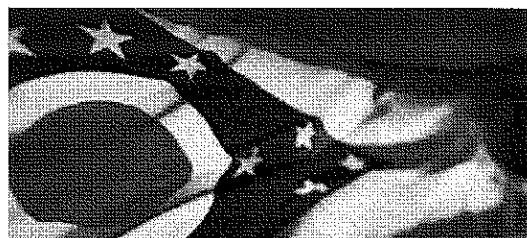
The cost is \$20 for those who are not current members of the Columbus Lawyers Chapter (\$15 if you already paid Columbus Lawyers Chapter dues for the 2016-2017 program year, and \$5 for students). Lunch is included. R.S.V.P. by January 11 to guarantee your seat, meal, and pre-printed nametag. Call Ben Flowers at (614) 281-3647 or email ColumbusFedSoc@Gmail.com with any questions. To join or renew your dues for the Columbus Lawyers Chapter, please pay the dues through the Eventbrite website or bring a check for an additional \$25 payable to the Federalist Society.

If wonky lawyer debates aren't your thing or you're not in Columbus tomorrow, feel free to forward to anyone who might like to join us.

The event will be held at the

Thursday, January 12, 2017 from
12:30 PM to 1:30 PM (EST)

The Athletic Club of Columbus
136 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215



[View Map](#)

Share this event:



[Click Here to RSVP](#)

ANSWER: The answer is $\frac{1}{2}$. This is because the probability of getting a head on a single coin flip is $\frac{1}{2}$.

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Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

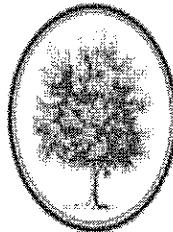
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 5:56 PM
To: Rep07
Subject: Buckeye releases new policy brief on prison reform



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Daniel Dew, Criminal Justice Fellow
(614) 224-4422 or Daniel@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 27, 2017

Reforming Ohio's Prisons and Saving Taxpayer Dollars

COLUMBUS, OHIO--On Friday, The Buckeye Institute released a new policy brief outlining an innovative policy solution to reform Ohio's outdated and overpopulated prison system.

Ohio currently spends \$1.7 billion dollars every year on incarceration, and its prisons are at 134% of their capacity. Unless something is done to reduce this bloated population, the state could end up spending an additional \$1 billion to build an entirely new prison.

Thankfully, as The Buckeye Institute's Daniel Dew explains, Ohio already paved the way to a solution with its reform of the juvenile incarceration system.

"While many policymakers look to Texas and other states to see what they have done to reduce their prison populations, the most successful program to safely reduce incarceration can be found right here in Ohio's juvenile system. By using a market-based approach to encourage local rehabilitation, Ohio's juvenile incarcerated population dropped 74% and Pew estimates that for every dollar Ohio invests in the program it saves \$45."

The Buckeye Institute's policy brief explains these reforms in more detail, and shows how Ohio policymakers could replicate them to solve the ills plaguing its adult prisons.

If implemented, such a system would not only dramatically cut down the prison population, but it would also promote public safety, reduce recidivism, and help combat the drug epidemic--all while saving taxpayers millions, if not billions, of dollars.

#

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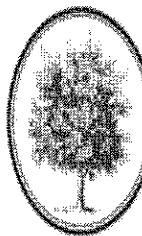
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 9:30 AM
To: Rep07
Subject: Buckeye seminar series for 2017 begins TOMORROW!



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Friends,

You are once again cordially invited to our Buckeye staff lunchtime seminar series for 2017. In case you missed our emails last fall with further details, see the bottom of this message about how these seminars work.

TOMORROW! Tuesday, January 31:

Just in time for Ohio's new biennial budget release, Buckeye's renowned Economist Dr. Orphe Divounguy will give a talk called: "Incentives Matter: An Examination of Tax Policy and the Importance of Incentives." Whether you are an economist or policymaker or are not quite sure you understand economic concepts, Dr. Divounguy is here to help explain why and exactly how the tax code impacts individual and corporate behavior.

Divounguy earned his Ph.D. from England's University of Southampton, and served as a teaching and research fellow and international economic consultant before joining the Buckeye team and our Economic Research Center (ERC) last year.

Tuesday, February 28:

Buckeye's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Rea S. Hederman, Jr. will discuss the future of healthcare in the states in a speech entitled: "What's next for Health Care in the Post-Obama Era?"

Hederman is a national expert on healthcare policy. He also manages Buckeye's staff, operations, research, and policy output, and oversees the Economic Research Center (ERC). Hederman's commentary has been published in The Washington Post, The Washington Times, National Affairs, National Review Online, and FoxNews.com, among others.

When: Buckeye's lunchtime seminars begin promptly at noon and end by 1:30 at the latest (and often earlier).

Where: The Buckeye Institute's conference room on the 11th floor of the Key Bank building located on the corner of East Broad Street and 3rd at 88 East Broad Street in Columbus, directly across from Statehouse/Capitol building. If you need help finding parking downtown, [click here](#).

Background: The Buckeye Institute's policy experts and leadership team regularly share their expert insight and wisdom with Buckeye's staff and interns over lunch. Last fall, we decided to try something experimental.

We began offering our supporters the opportunity to attend these formerly staff-and-interns-only lunchtime seminars. We just asked that you let us know you're coming, bring your own lunch, and show up on time so as not to interrupt the speaker.

The response to this experiment was overwhelmingly positive, and attendance grew each month. We are confident that you'll find these seminars both educational and enjoyable. If for some reason you don't, our 2016 money back guarantee still applies this year: simply file a complaint at www.TakeItOrLeaveIt--It'sFree--Let'sWorkOnOurGratitude.com.

We hope you'll join us tomorrow and at all of our monthly seminars in 2017!

#

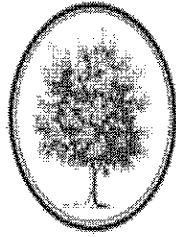
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 5:59 PM
To: Rep07
Subject: Quotes from Buckeye experts on Kasich's Budget Proposal



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Greg Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst
(614) 204-0259 or Greg@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 30, 2017

The Buckeye Institute released the following quotes for immediate press use regarding aspects of Governor Kasich's budget.

Education:

"Taken as a whole, Governor Kasich's school funding proposal is a welcome change from the past several budgets of high growth in spending that exceeded the rate of inflation. While it would be even better to flat fund K-12 education, it is the right time to work through the flaws of school funding including 'caps' and 'guarantees.' This budget proposal moves in that direction."

- Greg R. Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst at The Buckeye Institute

Spending:

"While general revenue spending in Governor Kasich's budget proposal decreases in the next two fiscal years, overall spending actually increases by 4.4% in FY17 and 1.8% in FY19 largely due to increased Medicaid costs. To more adequately 'right-size' Ohio's government, general revenues should not be spent on programs that would be better funded through private philanthropy."

- Greg R. Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst at The Buckeye Institute

Taxes:

"Governor Kasich should be commended for simplifying Ohio's income tax system by reducing the number of brackets and continuing a shift toward consumption taxes and away from personal income taxes. However, we have grave concerns about tax proposals that single out specific industries to be assessed higher taxes. Government should not be in the business of penalizing or rewarding certain sectors, businesses, or industries."

- Rea S. Hederman Jr., Executive Vice President at The Buckeye Institute

Municipal Income Taxes:

"Ohio's municipal income tax is one of the most complex and administratively burdensome taxes in the entire nation. Proposals to simplify this entrapping byzantine maze--including moving toward a singular centralized collection process--are long overdue and represent very sound public policy. The Buckeye Institute heartily applauds Governor Kasich for advancing this much-needed and important reform for Ohio."

- Greg R. Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst at The Buckeye Institute

Energy/Severance Tax:

"A severance tax was the wrong policy in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015, and it remains the wrong policy in 2017. Raising taxes on the struggling energy sector is throwing an anvil to a drowning man."

- Joe Nichols, Energy Policy Analyst at The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center

DRC Budget:

"The Buckeye Institute applauds Governor Kasich and Director Mohr for using evidence-based policy proposals for the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) budget. Overwhelming evidence shows that low-level criminal offenders who are rehabilitated locally are less likely to commit future crimes because they remain engaged in their communities, and--more importantly--are not picking up bad habits from more hardened and violent criminals in prison. The budget introduced today takes a step forward in keeping our neighborhoods safer, reducing government spending, and allocating resources to local communities to combat the epidemic of drug addiction."

- Daniel J. Dew, Criminal Justice Fellow at The Buckeye Institute

Medicaid:

"Medicaid continues to be the Pac-Man of the state budget. While several cost savings and personal responsibility proposals in Governor Kasich's budget proposal are sound policy, far more must be done. Ohio continues to pick up additional financial burdens that will crowd out other essential investments and priorities. Further, the plan to make up for the now disallowed Medicaid Managed Care sales tax is significantly flawed. Applying a tax to all health insurers, whether they do Medicaid business or not, sets a terrible precedent even if the immediate financial cost to the non-Medicaid businesses is limited presently."

- Greg R. Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst at The Buckeye Institute

#

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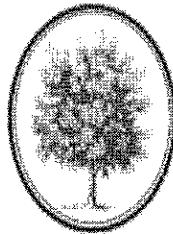
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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:21 PM
To: Rep07
Subject: Buckeye President Comments on Gorsuch Nomination



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Daniel Dew, Criminal Justice Fellow
(614) 224-4422 or Daniel@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 31, 2017

Commenting on the appointment of Judge Neil Gorsuch to the position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, The Buckeye Institute's President Robert Alt said the following:

"Judge Neil Gorsuch's approach to the law is, well, judicious. Gorsuch has said that judges ought to declare what the law *is*, not what 'they might wish it to be in light of their own political views.' The commonsense of Gorsuch's judicial philosophy is refreshing in the overly politicized climate of Washington these days."

"Judge Neil Gorsuch is the kind of intellectually serious and exceedingly well-qualified judge everyone on both sides of the aisle should be able to support. He deserves an up or down vote."

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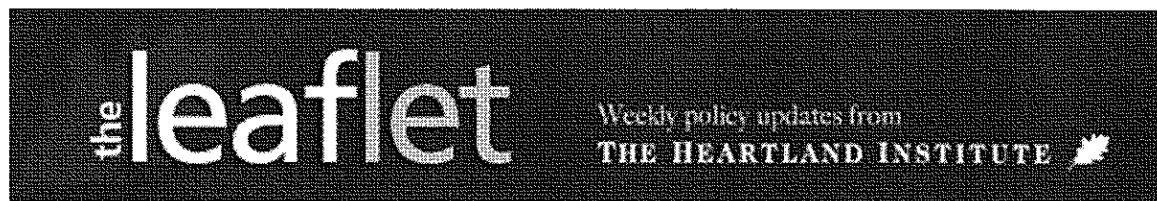
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Heartland Institute: The Government Relations Team
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2017 10:04 AM
To: Rep07
Subject: The Leaflet - Health Care Reform Options for States



Health Care Reform Options for States

With the fate of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) still uncertain, there are steps state legislators can take to improve the cost and availability of health care in their states. Heartland Institute Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans outlines 10 such reforms in a new *Research & Commentary* published in January. Glans argues states should not wait for Congress and the White House to fix our nation's health care policies; they should instead, Glans says, implement proposals to help make health care more competitive, accessible, and affordable.

One of the ways states can reform health care is by expanding access to health savings accounts (HSAs). Under an HSA system, consumers contribute funds to health-care-dedicated savings accounts tax-free and use the funds to pay for qualifying health care expenses. Under many HSA proposals, the funds carry over from year to year.

Julie Appleby, a senior correspondent for the nonprofit news service Kaiser Health News, said in a recent NPR.org article HSAs can save significant amounts of money because consumers bear a bigger share of medical care costs up front, which means they are more likely to shop around and avoid using unnecessary medical services.

As Appleby explains, under the current system, "HSAs ... must be paired with qualifying health insurance plans that have annual deductibles of at least \$1,300 for individuals or \$2,600 for a family, although surveys show average deductibles are generally higher than those minimums. Unlike some other types of insurance, the consumer pays the full cost of most doctor visits, drugs or hospital stays until the deductible is met. There are some exceptions for services deemed preventive, such as certain vaccines, prescription medications or cancer screenings."

Consumers who pair HSAs with high deductible plans have the potential to save thousands of dollars per year, making the health care system much more efficient in the process. Indiana has offered HSA plans to its public employees since 2006 with great success for both the employees and taxpayers.

Another way to improve the cost and availability of health care services in states is to roll back certificate of need (CON) laws. Glans argues in a *Research & Commentary*, "These laws block competition and innovation in the health care market. At present, 35 states require CON

commission approval for a wide range of expenditures, including the construction of new hospitals, purchase of major pieces of medical technology, and the offering of new medical procedures. CON laws increase the cost of health care and limit access, benefitting those with political connections.”

States can also improve health care service availability by expanding direct primary care (DPC) access. Not to be confused with “concierge medicine,” DPC bypasses insurers and usually cost \$50 to \$100 per month. In a *Research & Commentary*, State Government Relations Manager Nathan Makla wrote, “Direct primary care empowers patients and doctors, giving them more freedom to establish and participate in health-care-provider models that work best for all patients. North Carolina should remove unnecessary regulatory barriers to direct primary care and allow more public-sector employees to participate in a DPC system.”

State legislators should pass legislation specifying DPC is not a form of insurance, removing a common barrier facing physicians interested in adopting a DPC model but afraid a state bureaucracy might shut down their new practice. Lawmakers should also integrate a direct primary care program into their Medicaid system, a move that would help reduce costs and improve care.

States can and should take health care reform into their own hands to improve the lives of citizens and shore up state budgets across the nation.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

Budget & Tax

Oklahoma Legislator Proposes Weakening Tax Relief Trigger

Dustin Siggins, associate editor for *The Stream*, writes in this *Budget & Tax News* article about a Republican state legislator in Oklahoma who is proposing a bill that would revise the state government’s “tax trigger” law, raising the revenue level at which the state government is required to reduce income tax rates. Trigger laws have become an increasingly popular method for states to use to reduce tax rates while not compromising revenue. A *Research & Commentary* on the issue is available [here](#). [Read more](#)



Education

Research & Commentary: Universal ESA Program Would Make Arkansas a National Leader in Education Choice

A bill has been introduced in the Arkansas House of Representatives that, if passed, would be the nation’s first universal education savings accounts (ESA) program to be funded via tax-credit scholarships. These ESAs would be available for use by parents to pay for tuition and fees at private and parochial schools, should parents choose to do so. In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson argues making available a universal ESA would greatly benefit

the state. "Allowing all students in Arkansas to receive ESAs would be a giant step toward remedying Arkansas' lackluster record of failing to educate its children," Benson wrote. "When parents are given the opportunity to choose, every school must compete and improve, which gives more children the opportunity to attend a quality school." [Read more](#)

Energy & Environment

Research & Commentary: Banning Fracking in Maryland Would Be a Mistake

In this *Research & Commentary*, Policy Analyst Tim Benson writes about efforts being made by some Maryland lawmakers to permanently ban hydraulic fracturing, commonly called "fracking," in the state before the two-year moratorium on the process expires in October. The ban would be a mistake, Benson argues, because "as well as being environmentally safe, fracking has had a positive economic impact on those areas that have allowed the practice."

"The fracking process has transformed the energy outlook of the United States over the past decade, and the rise of shale gas as a replacement for coal has been primarily responsible for the United States now enjoying its lowest level of carbon-dioxide emissions since 1989," wrote Benson. "There is no scientific justification for banning hydraulic fracturing or over-regulating it out of existence." [Read more](#)

Health Care

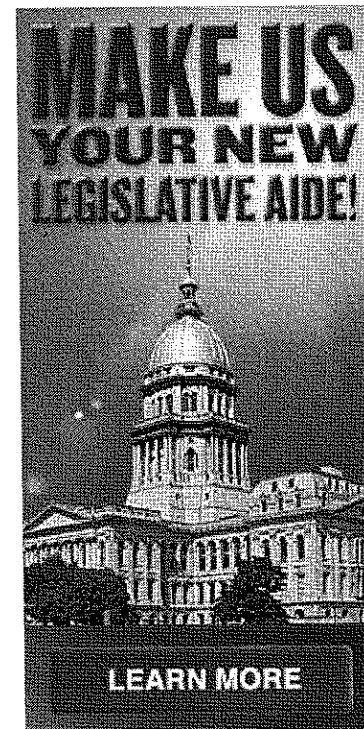
Research & Commentary: Health Care Sharing Ministries a Good Alternative to ACA

The rising health insurance premiums and deductibles that have occurred as a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) have led many families to seek alternatives to health insurance. One alternative that has drawn considerable interest and expanded rapidly since the implementation of the ACA is health care sharing ministries (HCSMs). In this *Research & Commentary*, Senior Policy Analyst Matthew Glans defines HCSMs and describes the many benefits they offer to those who take advantage of them. "HCSMs are the modern equivalent of mutual-aid societies, groups that voluntarily work together to ensure everyone gets the health care they need. States should allow this growth to continue and not move to add unnecessary layers of regulation, as many state insurance commissioners have recommended," Glans wrote. [Read more](#)

From Our Free-Market Friends

The Buckeye Institute Releases New Policy Brief on Prison Reform

The Buckeye Institute recently released a new *Policy Brief*



POLICY NEWSPAPER



The February 2017 issue of *Health Care News* reports most enrollees in Medicaid expansion under Obamacare were previously eligible for the program, meaning federal taxpayers got ripped off, paying a higher share of states' Medicaid bills than they should have. According to Brian Blase, a senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, "for people incorrectly classified [as

outlining an innovative policy solution that could reform Ohio's outdated and overpopulated prison system. Ohio currently spends \$1.7 billion every year on incarceration, and its prisons are at 134 percent of their capacity. Daniel Dew, The Buckeye Institute's criminal justice fellow, argues, "Unless something is done to reduce this bloated population, the state could end up spending an additional \$1 billion to build an entirely new prison. ... Thankfully Ohio already paved the way to a solution with its reform of the juvenile incarceration system." The Buckeye Institute's *Policy Brief* explains these reforms in more detail and shows how Ohio policymakers could replicate them to solve the ills plaguing the state's adult prisons. [Read more](#)

newly eligible for Medicaid], the federal government is paying about \$3,000 too much."

Budget & Tax News

Environment & Climate News

School Reform News



The Heartland Institute

The Heartland Institute is a 33-year-old national non-profit organization dedicated to discovering, developing, and promoting free-market solutions to economic and social problems.

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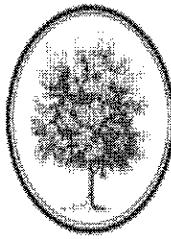
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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 4:17 PM
To: Rep07
Subject: Economic Research Center releases spiffy new reports and model of Wyoming's economy



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Orphe Divounguy, Ph.D., Economist
(614) 224-4422 or Orphe@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 9, 2017

The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center Releases New Model of Wyoming's Economy-- Demonstrates Impact of Various Policy Changes

Columbus, OH--On Thursday, The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center (ERC) released two timely reports on Wyoming's fiscal and economic problems as demonstrated by a sophisticated new dynamic model it created of Wyoming's economy:

- Review of Wyoming's Fiscal Health
- Fiscal Policy, Theory, and Measurement: The State of Wyoming

These comprehensive economic studies were conducted in partnership with Wyoming Liberty Group in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Economists at The Buckeye Institute's ERC analyzed both the challenges and several potential policy solutions for Wyoming's state budget woes. With its unique custom economic models that employ top-of-the-line dynamic analysis, ERC economists were able to predict how changes in various proposed tax policies will alternately create additional, or threaten existing, jobs in Wyoming.

Wyoming Liberty Group CEO Jonathan Downing said,

"Wyoming Liberty Group is pleased to be able to provide the hard facts, data, economic research, and analysis of various public policy solutions to Wyoming's budget crisis, which have been sorely needed in years past. With this new information and dynamic model in hand, policymakers will have the tools necessary to make fiscally-sound decisions as they address the state's budget issues."

The ERC's model unfortunately reveals that the fiscal problems Wyoming faces may be even worse than anticipated. Excluding transfers from state savings, Wyoming revenue collections have fallen ten percent per person over the last decade in real dollars. The reports praise Wyoming's sensible tax policy that taxes consumption more than personal income or investment. The report's modeled policy scenarios included increases or decreases to the franchise tax, sales tax, severance tax, and an increase in exports. The economists also included a creation of a personal income tax, with the assumption that Wyoming's constitution changed to allow such a tax. The model showed that an effective increase in the sales tax of .5% (through removing exemptions) would result in the loss of nearly 1,000 jobs and a reduction of \$15 million to the state economy over the next two years.

ERC lead economist and report author Dr. Orphe Divounguy stated of the results,

"The Wyoming economy faces tough challenges due to the downturn in the energy market. Wyoming policymakers should consider tax reforms that encourage investment and growth. One of the best pro-growth policies would be the elimination of the franchise tax, which significantly affects investment. One of the worst policies would be the creation of a state income tax. A new income tax would cause even more severe problems for the Wyoming economy and would reduce state GDP and job creation."

#

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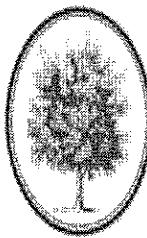
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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2017 9:05 AM
To: Rep07
Subject: Financial Literacy for Millennials event Thursday, Feb. 23

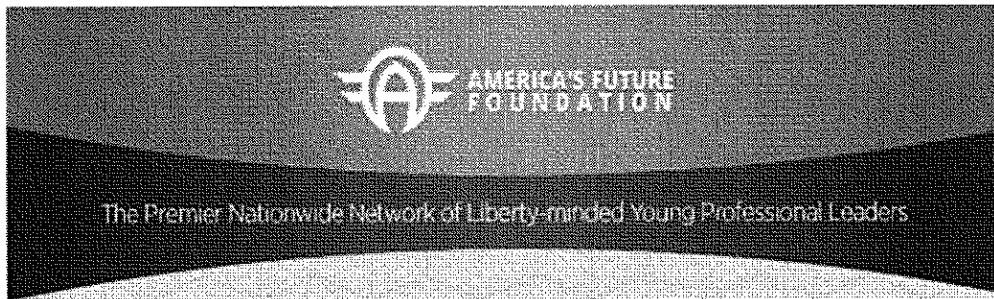


THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Valentine's Day was almost a week ago, and yet The Buckeye Institute is still all about sharing the love.

A fantastic organization that we work with from time to time--America's Future Foundation (commonly known as AFF)--is hosting a timely event featuring Buckeye's Board Vice Chairman and author Andrew O. Smith. Andrew will discuss his new book (Financial Literacy for Millennials: A Practical Guide to Managing Your Financial Life for Teens, College Students, and Young Adults) along with practical tips for getting your finances in order.

This event is geared to students, young professionals, and other millennials, but is open for everyone. A free introduction to financial literacy, plus drinks and snacks, and a chance to meet the author and ask your burning financial questions is hard to beat on a Thursday after work or school. Take it from us at The Buckeye Institute, Andrew O. Smith is a hit!



Financial Literacy for Millennials

Where: The Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus

When: 6pm-7:30pm on Thursday, February 23

Cost: Free--including free drinks and hors d'oeuvres!

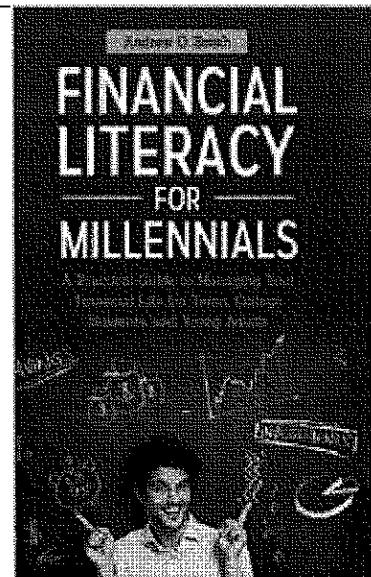
You are invited to join us for the relaunch of the Columbus chapter of America's Future Foundation! We are excited to bring together young professionals like you for networking, professional development, policy discussions, and dynamic events in Ohio's capital.

Join us as we hear from author Andrew O. Smith who'll discuss his newest book, *Financial Literacy for Millennials: A Practical Guide to Managing Your Financial Life for Teens, College Students, and Young Adults*. Smith will cover topics relevant to any young adult who is making independent financial decisions for the first time, including:

- * student loan debt
- * career planning
- * entrepreneurship
- * investments
- * avoiding financial fraud
- * saving for retirement, and more!

The book is a guide for you or anyone looking to gain a better grasp of how to make smart financial decisions.

Smith will discuss his book and participate in a Q&A session. RSVP by February 20th on AFF's Columbus chapter Facebook page or to esther@americasfuture.org.



Click Here to RSVP

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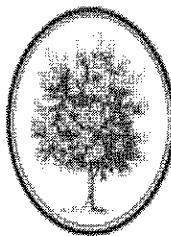
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 1:13 PM
To: Rep07
Subject: The Buckeye Institute's Fight For Military Families Becomes Ohio's Fight



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Rea S. Hederman Jr.
(614) 224-4422 or Rea@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 22, 2017

The Buckeye Institute's Fight For Ohio's Military Spouses and Families Joined By Legislators

COLUMBUS, OHIO--On Tuesday, Representatives Derek Merrin (R-Monclova Township) and Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) introduced legislation in Ohio's House based on The Buckeye Institute's idea to make it easier for the spouses of military personnel stationed in Ohio to receive an occupational license in their chosen profession.

Some of you may recall Buckeye's press release and policy brief back in November highlighting the difficulties and financial hardships experienced by military families as they move from place to place. In particular, military spouses often face significant barriers in trying to maintain an active license in their profession in each state.

As we mentioned in our brief, "The Institute for Veterans and Military Families revealed that 73 percent of military spouses with an occupational license require a renewal or reissuance of their license after being transferred to a new state."

Buckeye's report called on Ohio to recognize out-of-state licenses for military spouses. Today, we are pleased to announce that two Ohio legislators have answered that call.

Rep. Derek Merrin noted, "The Buckeye Institute is leading the way on occupational licensure reform. Buckeye's work has led to legislation that will expedite the licensure process for military members and their spouses."

Merrin and Gavarone's bill will grant full licenses to these individuals as long as the requirements for the license they held in another state are substantially similar to or more stringent than those of Ohio. For those individuals where the license they held in another state is not similar to Ohio standards, they can still obtain a "license by endorsement" and be allowed to act within their scope of practice for up to 12 months while they meet full Ohio license standards.

Greg Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst with The Buckeye Institute said, "Families of those serving our nation deserve to be able to work in their chosen profession unencumbered by red tape as they move from state to state. This policy helps reduce this unfortunate burden for the families who are already sacrificing so much."

While Ohio still desperately needs to comprehensively reform its occupational licensing regime, any policy that makes it easier for Ohioans to work (and fights for military families at the same time!) is a step in the right direction--and we are very proud to be Buckeyes today.

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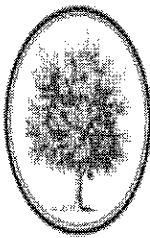
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 10:14 AM
To: Rep07
Subject: Postponed: Today's Lunchtime Seminar on Healthcare at Buckeye



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Friends,

Here at The Buckeye Institute, we believe in sharing ideas, not germs.

Accordingly, due to an unfortunate outbreak of strep in our office, we are postponing our lunchtime seminar on healthcare policy that was scheduled for noon today. How's that for irony?

Our goal is indeed to help solve the healthcare policy crisis, not create a new one.

We have already rescheduled, and hope you will be able to join us at noon on March 28th instead. Sorry for any inconvenience, but we trust you can appreciate our sparing you all this illness.

Chicken soup and throat lozenges can be sent to our office c/o the remaining unsick Buckeye staffers. And do stay hydrated out there!

#

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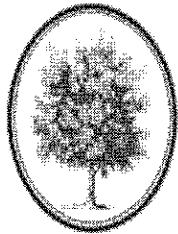
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, March 3, 2017 7:04 AM
To: Rep07
Subject: Hot-off-the-press study on Ohio's RPS shows devastating economic results



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Orphe Divounguy, Ph.D., Economist
(614) 224-4422 or Orphe@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 3, 2017

The Buckeye Institute Releases Brand Spanking New Study on RPS--And, Drumroll Please, It's a Doozy

COLUMBUS, OH--Early Friday morning, The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center (ERC) released its timely new report, The Impact of Renewables Portfolio Standards on the Ohio Economy, which demonstrates the negative economic impact of Ohio's Renewables Portfolio Standards (RPS) on Ohio's economy.

The results of the RPS study are in: If Ohio keeps RPS, tremendous economic damage will follow in its wake long after current policymakers have left office. Accordingly, this study serves as fair warning of impending economic consequences if RPS are not fixed.

By requiring electricity providers to purchase renewable energy credits (RECs), costs continue to increase--causing Ohio businesses and families to pay more for their energy over the next decade. As a result, if RPS is not permanently frozen or repealed outright, the evidence shows that families will suffer from reduced discretionary spending, businesses will hire fewer workers, and Ohio's economic growth will be stunted.

If the renewables standards continue as shown in this new Economic Research Center study, Ohio's economy would suffer from 134,000 fewer job opportunities and the state's GDP will be reduced by \$15.5 billion within 10 years. "Ohio workers and families will bear the brunt of the cost for this economically-damaging energy policy, that is RPS," reports The Buckeye Institute's lead economist Orphe Divounguy, Ph.D. "The evidence is overwhelming and convincing: this RPS mandate leads to cost increases that are essentially a tax on productive economic activity. The longer the mandate stays in effect, the more harmful its economic impact will be--as our new study shows very clearly."

The Economic Research Center employed its state-of-the-art and peer-reviewed dynamic growth model of the Ohio economy to simulate the economic effects of the RPS under various policy scenarios. These policy scenarios illustrate what would happen if, for instance, the RPS are permanently frozen at 2016 levels or take full effect. The most positive public policy scenario for Ohio's economy is RPS repeal, which allows the market to determine prices instead of government mandates.

The Buckeye Institute uses publicly available government data, employs sound academic-style research that is peer reviewed, and discloses its assumptions in an effort to be transparent about its methodology. Its Economic Research Center's economic models and calculations have been used and cited extensively in multiple states and relied upon by policymakers since the ERC's inception.

Press and legislators may contact Dr. Divounguy directly (contact information above) after reviewing the study and its results to discuss further.

#

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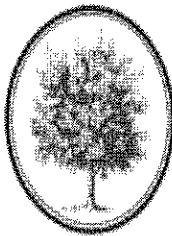
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:34 PM
To: Rep07
Subject: Your Buckeye Institute won big at U.S. Supreme Court today--even if your bracket went down in flames



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Daniel Dew, Criminal Justice Fellow
(614) 224-4422 or Daniel@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 21, 2017

The Buckeye Institute Secures Tremendous Victory Against Obama Administration with U.S. Supreme Court Ruling Tuesday Morning--No Disrespect to March Madness

COLUMBUS, OHIO--Your Buckeye Institute enjoys college hoops as much as anyone else--and we're not even going to mention Ohio State's basketball team--but a much more important and lasting win happened today.

In late September, The Buckeye Institute filed a brief asking the U.S. Supreme Court to serve as a check on overreach committed by the Obama administration.

And this morning, for old times' sake, the U.S. Supreme Court gave a special final sendoff to President Obama's pen and phone.

In the Court's opinion Tuesday morning ruling in favor of the challenger (and yours truly), Chief Justice Roberts wrote for the majority, "The glitch in th[e government's] argument is of course the text of [the statute]."^{*}

*Dang!!! Talk about a judicial zinger. Justice Roberts, we hardly recognize you!

Indeed, those pesky statutes and the U.S. Constitution were constantly hindering the Obama Administration's plans.

In this case, President Obama completely ignored the Federal Vacancies Reform Act (FVRA), which allows the president, with restrictions, to temporarily fill vacancies that would otherwise need Senate approval.

One of the conditions of the FVRA is that the president cannot play fast and loose with the Senate's role in confirming appointees by temporarily filling a position with the same person who is then nominated for the "permanent" position as well.

In 2010, President Obama did exactly what this act forbids--he tapped Lafe Solomon to temporarily fill the vacancy as the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) general counsel, and then nominated Solomon to permanently fill the same position he was already temporarily holding.

The Buckeye Institute's President Robert Alt said of the high court's decision today, "The Buckeye Institute's victory at the U.S. Supreme Court in *National Labor Relations Board v. SW General, Inc.* reaffirms a basic principle all Americans understand and support: we are a nation of laws, not of men. No one is above the law--not even the President himself."

The Buckeye Institute will continue to fight to ensure that our government operates within the limits established by law. To all of our supporters, today is your day. You won this case. You sent your financial contributions to support our efforts, you encouraged us not to give up the good fight, and you steadfastly believed with unwavering conviction that here in these United States of America, justice would ultimately prevail.

We dedicate this excellent decision today by the Supreme Court to you who faithfully contribute generously and thoughtfully to support our efforts to bring cases like this forward and fight back against unconstitutional acts even by the most powerful officeholder

in the world. We are humbled and grateful to be able to do this work day in and day out with your help--and win these cases--thanks to you good people.

Take a bow, and then raise a toast with us, "Today is a great day. My bracket lost resoundingly, but justice won undoubtedly."

#

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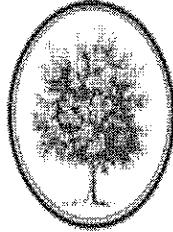
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 11:24 AM
To: Rep07
Subject: Buckeye is taking an axe to the feather duster fight in Washington



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Daniel Dew, Criminal Justice Fellow
(614) 224-4422 or Daniel@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 24, 2017

The Buckeye Institute is Leading Charge to Cut Stifling Regulations, Rollback Red Tape, and... Yes, Drain the Washington Swamp Using a Carefully Chosen Tool for the Job: the Congressional Review Act (CRA)

COLUMBUS, OH--On Friday morning, The Buckeye Institute announced its metaphorical use of the axe that is the Congressional Review Act (CRA).

The high temperatures in Columbus the next few days are expected to be in the low 70s. With the arrival of warmer weather brings a natural desire to do some spring cleaning, and your Buckeye Institute is well prepared for this dirty job. While the Washington establishment types are taking feather dusters in to do some light touching up and dust removal here and there, your Buckeye Institute is making use of a mighty axe (the CRA) to cut the devastating regulations hurting our citizens, our businesses, and our families in Ohio and states across this great nation.

In the moments before President Trump's Joint Address to Congress a few weeks back, the Wall Street Journal broke the news of Pacific Legal Foundation's project Red Tape Rollback.

Today, The Buckeye Institute is pleased to share our exciting role as a founding partner in this national effort to eliminate devastating regulations. Red Tape Rollback is a cooperative venture and the result of a partnership of several prominent national think tanks, policy organizations, and the oldest public interest law firm on the right to reduce regulations through the use of the CRA.

Former Congressman David McIntosh (now of The Club for Growth) and his old friend and Capitol Hill staffer Todd Gaziano (now of Pacific Legal Foundation) who wrote the Congressional Review Act were keen to employ this tactic to dismantle the foundation of the regulatory state. The Buckeye Institute has joined them in identifying regulations that are problematic in the states, for small businesses, and families, and we are leading the charge to eliminate them for good.

Why is the CRA so powerful? As explained on Red Tape Rollback:

- 1) Agencies are required to report agency rules, policy memoranda, guidance documents, dear colleague letters, etc. to Congress. Congress then has the option of disapproving these regulations within 60 days. Here is the kicker: there are thousands of these rules that went unreported during the Obama administration. Are you even surprised? What about the filibuster, you ask? **We don't need no stinkin' filibuster.** In fact, the CRA provides that the filibuster doesn't even apply to the review of these nasty regulations!
- 2) You say that Congress is a bunch of do-nothings who take feather dusters to do their deep spring cleaning? We can't argue with you there, but under the CRA, rules do not take effect until the reports are sent to Congress. So the Trump administration could indeed abandon these regulations without Congress.

What can you do to assist this effort? Go to Red Tape Rollback. Find the regulation that has been harming your business or family, and check to see whether it was ever reported to Congress. If it was not, enter it on that same webpage so that we can add it to the list of regulations to repeal. If you'd rather not get your hands dirty, but prefer to help us do this spring cleaning, we can always use financial support. This effort is costly in terms of time, staff, and research, and we cannot do it without your help.

The Buckeye Institute's President Robert Alt said of this project, "In states across the country, the proliferation of problematic regulations has slowed economic growth, killed jobs, and oppressed small businesses and families. Ironically, we now know that the same Washington government agencies promulgating these onerous regulations did not follow the rules themselves. That ends today. The Buckeye Institute is proud to be a founding partner of the Red Tape Rollback project to ensure that the Congressional Review Act is vigorously enforced, agencies follow the rules that Congress put into place, and that job-killing and other harmful regulations are eliminated expeditiously."

Boom.

#

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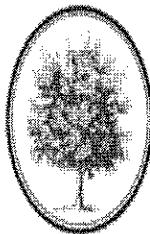
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 7:47 AM
To: Rep07
Subject: Reminder: Buckeye's lunchtime seminar on health care policy tomorrow at noon



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Friends,

Do you remember when we announced that a nasty bout of strep throat had gone.... wait for it... **viral...** among our staff and their progeny a few weeks ago? And, accordingly, we postponed our lunchtime seminar on health care policy to spare our guests the illness?

Well, we write to remind you that we are all healthy and ready to host the rescheduled seminar TOMORROW (Tuesday, March 28) as promised at noon. We hope you can join us for the timely talk on health care policy given by The Buckeye Institute's own Executive Vice President Rea S. Hederman Jr. His presentation is entitled, "Obamacare: What's next for the states in the new administration?"

Hederman's innovative work in health care policy has focused on how states can regain control of health care markets. Hederman has worked with national and state policy organizations as well as national and state legislators in promoting free-market ideas to reduce health care costs for individuals and the government, and is the co-author of the nationally-distributed "Returning Health Care Power to the States."

When: Buckeye's lunchtime seminars begin promptly at noon and end by 1:30 at the latest (often earlier).

Where: The Buckeye Institute's conference room on the 11th floor of the Key Bank building located on the corner of East Broad Street and 3rd downtown Columbus at 88 East Broad Street, which is directly across from the Statehouse/Capitol building. If you need help finding parking downtown, [click here](#).

Background: The Buckeye Institute's policy experts regularly share their insight and wisdom with Buckeye's staff and interns over lunch--just one of the many perks working at Buckeye affords. Last fall, we decided to try something experimental. We began offering our supporters the opportunity to attend these formerly staff-and-interns-only lunchtime seminars. We just asked that you let us know that you are coming (email Patrick@BuckeyeInstitute.org) so we can set out the right number of chairs, [bring your own lunch](#), and show up on time so as not to interrupt the speaker.

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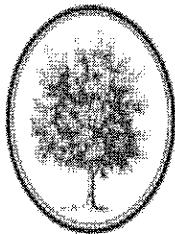
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 8:50 AM
To: Rep07
Subject: The piggies aren't little anymore--they're hogging the state budget



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Greg Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst
(614) 224-4422 or Greg@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 29, 2017

The Buckeye Institute Releases Brand New Piglet Book and Calls on Legislators to Cut the Pork From State Budget

COLUMBUS, OHIO--What time is it? Ohio's biennial budget time. And what does that mean for all of us budget hawks, policy wonks, and pork haters? Today is the special day that happens only once every two years.

If you are fiscally prudent, if you love puppies and college football, if you have a place in your heart for America and her states, today is the day you have been waiting for: The Buckeye Institute has released its brand new updated-for-this-budget-cycle Piglet Book--ta da!

Ohio legislators, be advised, our report is chalk full of great ideas--and you can steal them *gratis*. We won't worry about copyright violations or whether you cite us as your source. Claim them as your own. Feel free to become the heroic spending slashers to put all former spending slashers to shame. We will cheer you on with every dollar removed from the budget. And best of all? You will sleep better and become morally richer knowing you did the right thing for the Buckeye state and its taxpayers. In fact, a colleague of yours, Ohio Senator Kris Jordan noted, "The Buckeye Institute's biennial Piglet Book is always a great

resource for policymakers looking to cut back on unnecessary and often wasteful spending. I take its recommendations seriously and urge my colleagues to do the same."

Shucks, I don't think we could have said it better ourselves.

The Buckeye Institute's appropriately-named report analyzes wasteful spending in Ohio's biennial budget proposals, and cites projects that unwisely waste taxpayers' hard-earned dollars. Some of these projects should be eliminated entirely and others make sense to be left for private businesses and philanthropic organizations to fund instead.

A state's budget should reflect the priorities of its citizens. Too often, special interests alter the budget in harmful ways with crony handouts and questionable projects. The more a government spends, the more taxes it has to collect, which hurt small businesses and families most.

The goal of each edition of our Piglet Book is ultimately to limit state spending to essential services and state priorities, and--by way of a first step--to identify and expose the worst of the worst. If Ohio simply contained the growth of its spending to 2-2.5 percent annually, it could save over \$3.7 billion. What would you do with that kind of cash? I think I'd literally go to Disney World. That's without cutting anything, just simply limiting the growth of spending. Imagine the savings from actually cutting some aspects of the budget. Of course, we still need to address the elephant in the room, what Governor Voinovich once called the "Pac-Man" of the state budget--Medicaid--if we want to get our house in order financially.

The author of the report, The Buckeye Institute's Senior Policy Analyst Greg R. Lawson said, "The Buckeye Institute's Piglet Book details specific spending programs that should be cut or eliminated in order to keep our state's budget under control. Too much government spending, even on well-meaning projects, reduces our prosperity and hurts taxpayers where it counts."

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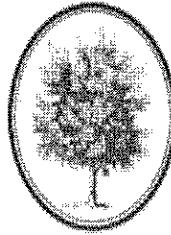
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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, April 6, 2017 8:31 AM
To: Rep07
Subject: The winner is.... Lisa Gates (Buckeye announces new VP of Comms)

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

= A

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 6, 2017

The Buckeye Institute Names Lisa Gates as New VP of Communications

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute announced on Thursday that after more than 70 candidates applied for the position, Lisa A. Gates has been selected as Buckeye's new Vice President of Communications. Gates, an Ohio native, will oversee all of the Institute's communications and marketing efforts.

"We are pleased to have Lisa join our team and bring her tremendous experience back home to Ohio," said Robert Alt, President and CEO of The Buckeye Institute. "Lisa's expertise will help The Buckeye Institute promote sound free-market policies and solutions in Ohio and states across the country."

Gates has more than 20 years of experience in communications, media outreach, crisis communications, message development, public relations, marketing and branding.

Most recently, Gates served as Director of Communications at the International Republican Institute (IRI), a Washington D.C.-based nonprofit organization that supports democratic actors around the world as they build democratic institutions and accountable, transparent governments. While at IRI, Gates oversaw all communications, marketing and branding efforts for the Institute and its 60 plus programs worldwide and implemented a comprehensive communications strategy that helped the Institute establish a strong brand that is recognized as an expert in the field of democratic governance, women's empowerment, and youth leadership.

During her time at IRI, Gates also served as an election monitor and coordinated communications efforts for 21 international election observation missions in Afghanistan, Egypt, Georgia, Honduras, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nigeria, Somaliland, Tunisia, and Ukraine.

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Prior to joining IRI, Gates served as Public Affairs Officer and Director of the International Press Center for the Coalition Provisional Authority and the U.S. Mission in Baghdad, Iraq. In that role, she oversaw the day-to-day operations of the International Press Center and served as a spokesperson for the U.S. Embassy and the Coalition Provisional Authority on women's issues and the Iraq Stock Exchange.

Gates previously served as spokesperson for then-Governor Jeb Bush of Florida. A graduate of The Ohio State University, Gates got her start in public affairs working in the communications office of then-Governor George V. Voinovich of Ohio.

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Policy Matters Ohio
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2017 4:56 PM
To: Rep07
Subject: Cool new look, same hard-hitting research: News from Policy Matters

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Fresh new look: If you've been on [PolicyMattersOhio.com](#) lately -- and we know you're visiting our site multiple times a day -- you've probably noticed some changes. Click around and let us know what you think! A big thank you to the Cleveland Foundation and the FORM group for funding and developing the new site.

Ohio in motion: We're driving our pro-transit agenda forward - and beginning to see results. Last week state lawmakers voted to provide \$33 million a year for new buses and infrastructure improvements for Ohio's 61 public transit agencies. That's a \$10 million increase over what Governor John Kasich proposed. But we have a long way to go - especially when many transit agencies could lose millions due to changes in the state sales tax base. We testified asking the state to make transit agencies whole. Meanwhile, Senator Michael Skindell introduced legislation to increase state funding for public transportation to \$25 million and up the use of federal flex funding for transit to \$50 million.

Do it for the kids: In his State of the State Address, Governor John Kasich emphasized the importance of education. But in an issue brief released last week,

State Policy Fellow Victoria Jackson explains how his proposed 2018-2019 budget cuts funding for two-thirds of Ohio's school districts, especially the ones struggling the most. Instead, the legislature should roll back tax cuts for the wealthiest and close some of our state's unnecessary tax loopholes.

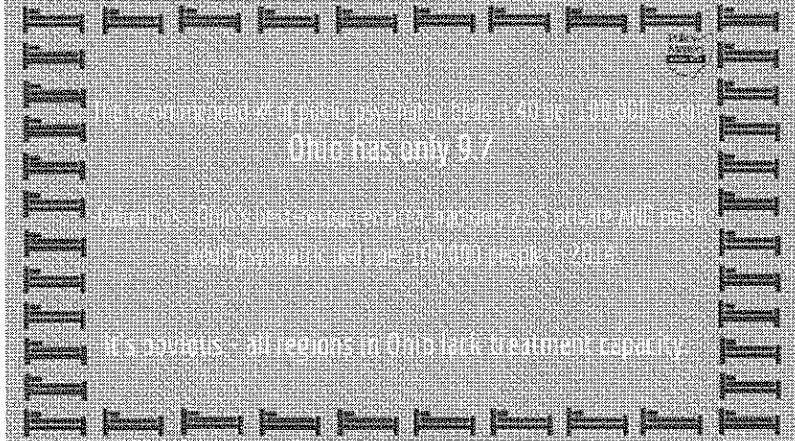
Budget Bites: Our latest Budget Bites deal with two of Ohio's most pressing issues: housing and the drug epidemic. The 2018-2019 budget falls short on both fronts.

The Ohio Housing Trust Fund



In 2015 more than 33,500 Ohioans were homeless and 400,000 spent more than half their income on rent, but Governor Kasich's 2018-2019 budget doesn't do enough to meet Ohio's housing needs.

Mental Health and Addiction



Governor Kasich is issued new restrictions on pain killers and is investing \$20 million into addiction research. These aren't bad ideas, but what we really need in the middle of a public health crisis is resources for treatment.

Speaking Up in April: Policy Matters is out in our communities in April, discussing and fighting for good policy. Amy Hanauer runs a discussion on resistance at [Cleveland State's Women's Leadership Symposium](#) on 4/12; leads a reading on the [Cleveland Race Anthology](#) at Happy Dog - Euclid Tavern on 4/18; and debates a Buckeye Institute researcher on social policy at Capital University on 4/26; Daniel Ortiz speaks to Cleveland's Neighborhood Leadership Institute on 4/20; and talks transit at Services for Independent Living on 4/28; Victoria Jackson reviews education findings on [America's Workforce Radio](#) on 4/13; Our Columbus office will be out in force - Hannah Halbert, Wendy Patton and Kalitha Williams - for an Advocates for Ohio's Future [webinar on work supports](#) on 4/18; and Zach Schiller teams up with Hannah to tackle unemployment compensation (and how to save it) in a 4/19 [webinar](#). And those are just the public events! C'mon out and see us, or invite us if you want to learn more.

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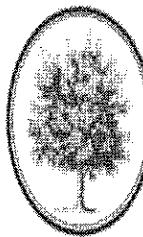


Try it free today

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 3:37 PM
To: Rep07
Subject: May 3 event: criminal justice reform all stars including former OSU running back Maurice Clarett

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=A
THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE



You're invited!

If you were not already planning to be downtown Columbus
on the evening of Wednesday, May 3, we recommend
changing your plans.

Go ahead. We'll wait right here.

We don't want you to be afflicted with what the kids these
days call FOMO.

The Buckeye Institute is co-hosting a panel discussion with a
serious lineup of all-stars. We're talking about criminal
justice, and you will want to be there to hear it for yourself.

Your Ohio State 2002 national championship running back Maurice Clarett is in the house. Maurice will share his personal story. Feel free to bring a tissue if you have a bleeding heart (don't worry about bringing one for us, we don't possess emotions--only solid free-market public policy ideas).

Not to be upstaged, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (DRC) Director Gary Mohr is coming too. He will address the logistics of running the state's prison system and his hope for reforms in the upcoming season.

Although Mohr is still awaiting his nomination to the corrections hall of fame, we're pretty sure it's a done deal.

Then there is the one and only Buckeye Institute President & CEO Robert Alt who has spent the better part of his career advancing evidence-based legal reforms toward the end zone--one first down at a time.

These gentlemen all-stars are sticking around at a reception outside the Davidson Theater following the formal event too, so you might be able to chat with them personally.

We're not even charging you to attend this one. That's right, it's on the house. So bring any of your friends and coworkers, invite all the neighbors, and heck even reach out to your in-laws or the OSU football fans you know who would love to hear more about how we need to score major criminal justice reforms.

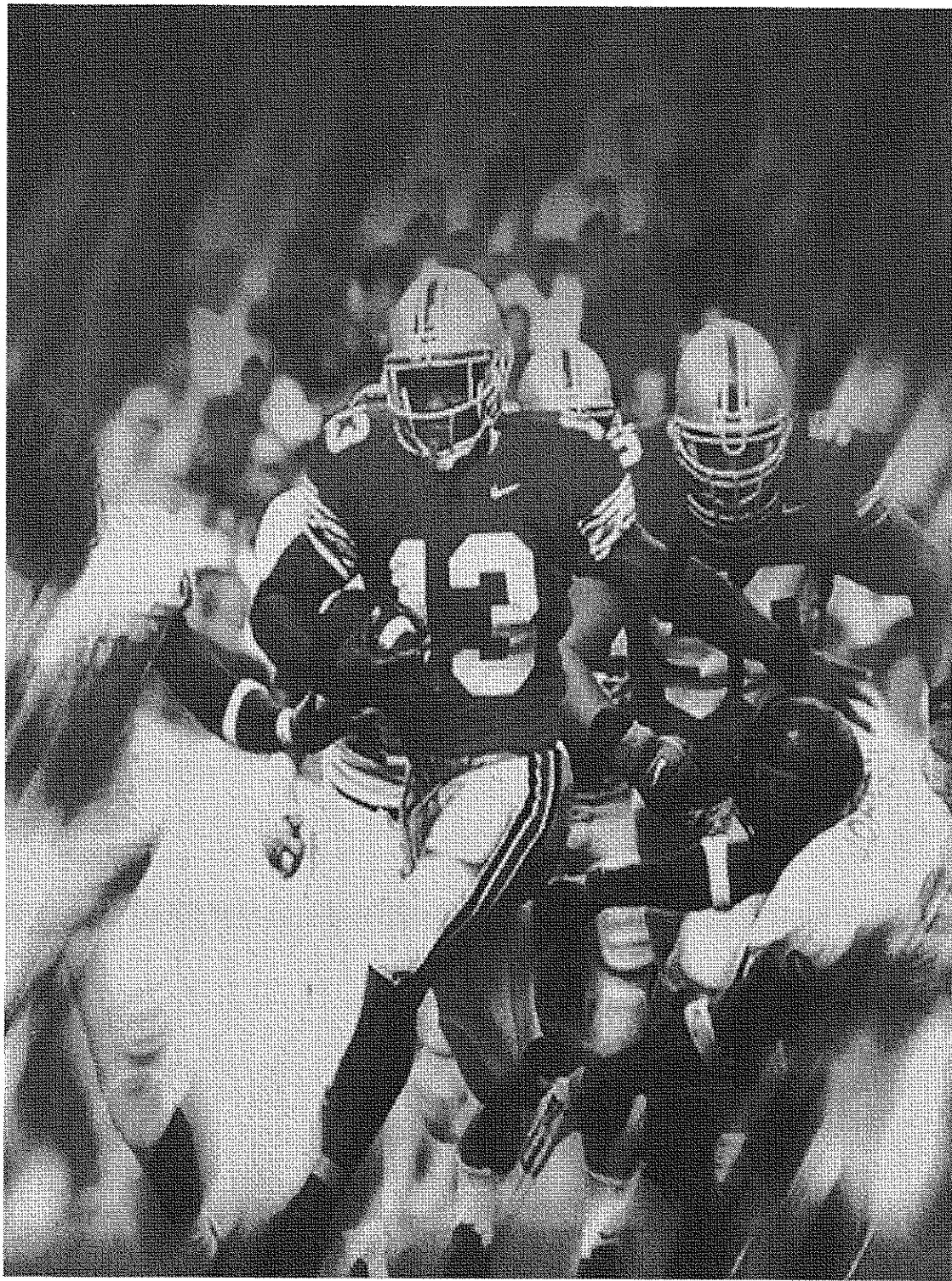
Click the link below to reserve your seat, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Wednesday, May 3

5:00-7:00 p.m.

The Riffe Center, Davidson Theatre
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

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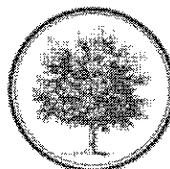
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 24, 2017

The Buckeye Institute's Piglet Book Serves as Blueprint for Cutting the State Budget

Columbus, OH - As state lawmakers work to cut \$800 million from Ohio's budget, The Buckeye Institute today rolled out a series of recommendations policymakers could look at to save taxpayer dollars and trim the needed money. The recommendations are a part of Buckeye's 2017 Piglet Book, which was released in March, and if implemented, could save taxpayers more than \$1 billion, a more realistic target than \$800 million, given recent revenue shortfalls.

"The reality is, Office of Budget and Management revenue estimates have been too optimistic and policymakers need to cut \$1 billion from the proposed state budget. Cutting \$1 billion will offset additional spending and revenue shortfalls, which we should anticipate," said Robert Alt, President and Chief Executive Officer at The Buckeye

Institute. "The good news is, Buckeye has a blueprint - our Piglet Book - that can guide the legislature as it looks for needed cuts."

Recommendation #1

Eliminate Funding to the Ohio Arts Council: Savings to Taxpayers: \$25.9 Million

The Ohio Arts Council receives taxpayer monies through income and sales tax revenue, which is then distributed to specifically-selected artists and galleries. While the work on the Arts Council has value, the government should not be an arbiter of culture. Artistic and cultural endeavors can and should be underwritten by donors giving voluntarily rather than by government fiat.

Recommendation #2

Slow the Rate of Growth in Education Funding: Savings to Taxpayers: \$208.7 Million

In FY16, Ohio spent \$10.5 billion funding the Department of Education. In the FY18-19 budget, Governor John Kasich asked for \$11.2 billion in FY18 and \$11.4 billion in FY19 for a total of \$22.6 billion. By slowing the rate of growth in education funding, Ohioans could save \$208.7 million.

The Buckeye Institute recommends \$11.1 billion in funding in FY18 (an increase of \$527.4 million over FY16) and \$11.3 billion in FY19 (an increase of \$748.9 million).

"A quality education is about far more than simply throwing more money at the education bureaucracy," said Greg R. Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst at The Buckeye Institute. Simply slowing spending growth and shifting funding towards students rather than the 'system' can yield not only taxpayer savings, but--more importantly--better educational outcomes for our students. It is time to start moving in this direction."

Recommendation #3

Eliminate Funding to the Ohioana Library Association: Savings to Taxpayers: \$595,228

While not a huge cost savings when compared to the budget killers of Medicaid and education funding, eliminating funding to private organizations, such as Ohioana Library adds up to real cost savings.

The Ohioana Library Association's work, while laudable, is not a core government service that requires taxpayer subsidies. As with the Ohio Arts Council, private individuals and the private sector should guide investment for this work.

Recommendation #4

Slow the Rate of Growth in Medicaid Funding: Savings to Taxpayers: \$1.6 Billion

More than two decades ago then-Governor George Voinovich called Medicaid the Pac-Man of Ohio's budget. It remains so today, eating up more than 47 percent of Ohio tax dollars.

In FY16, Ohio spent \$22.8 billion funding the Department of Medicaid. In the FY18-19 budget, Governor John Kasich asked for \$25 billion in FY18 and \$25.7 billion in FY19 for a total of \$50.7 billion. By slowing the rate of growth, Ohioans could save \$1.6 billion.

The Buckeye Institute recommends \$24.1 billion in funding in FY18 (an increase of \$1.4 billion over FY16) and \$24.9 billion in FY19 (an increase of \$2.1 billion).

"When Governor Kasich released his proposed budget, I previously said of Medicaid funding, 'Ohio continues to pick up additional financial burdens that will gobble up an increasing amount of state resources and crowd out other essential investments and priorities,'" said Rea S. Hederman Jr., Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at The Buckeye Institute. "Revenue shortfalls have exacerbated that situation. It is time for Ohio to get serious about controlling Medicaid spending and implementing innovative proposals, such as using 1332 waivers to gain greater flexibility under Obamacare."

Recommendation #5

Eliminate Funding to the Ohio Grape Industries: Savings to Taxpayers: \$2.4 Million
Ohioans pay to market Ohio wines through a five-cent tax on each bottle of wine, something wine producers should pay for themselves.

Taxpayers should not be expected to pay for corporate welfare of any kind, and the government should not favor one business or industry over another. If a company or industry makes a good product, people will buy it. The use of taxpayer money to support favored businesses is both ethically inappropriate and economically harmful.

These recommendations, along with others found in the 2017 Piglet Book, would save Ohio taxpayers \$3.8 billion, more than quadruple the needed \$800 million for which Governor Kasich and leaders in the Ohio House and Senate have called.

#

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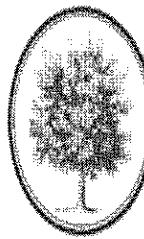
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You're invited!

If you were not already planning to be downtown Columbus
on the evening of Wednesday, May 3, we recommend
changing your plans.

Go ahead. We'll wait right here.

We don't want you to be afflicted with what the kids these
days call FOMO.

The Buckeye Institute is co-hosting a panel discussion with a
serious lineup of all-stars. We're talking about criminal
justice, and you will want to be there to hear it for yourself.

Your Ohio State 2002 national championship running back Maurice Clarett is in the house. Maurice will share his personal story. Feel free to bring a tissue if you have a bleeding heart (don't worry about bringing one for us, we don't possess emotions--only solid free-market public policy ideas).

Not to be upstaged, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (DRC) Director Gary Mohr is coming too. He will address the logistics of running the state's prison system and his hope for reforms in the upcoming season.

Although Mohr is still awaiting his nomination to the corrections hall of fame, we're pretty sure it's a done deal.

Then there is the one and only Buckeye Institute President & CEO Robert Alt who has spent the better part of his career advancing evidence-based legal reforms toward the end zone--one first down at a time.

These gentlemen all-stars are sticking around at a reception outside the Davidson Theater following the formal event too, so you might be able to chat with them personally.

We're not even charging you to attend this one. That's right, it's on the house. So bring any of your friends and coworkers, invite all the neighbors, and heck even reach out to your in-laws or the OSU football fans you know who would love to hear more about how we need to score major criminal justice reforms.

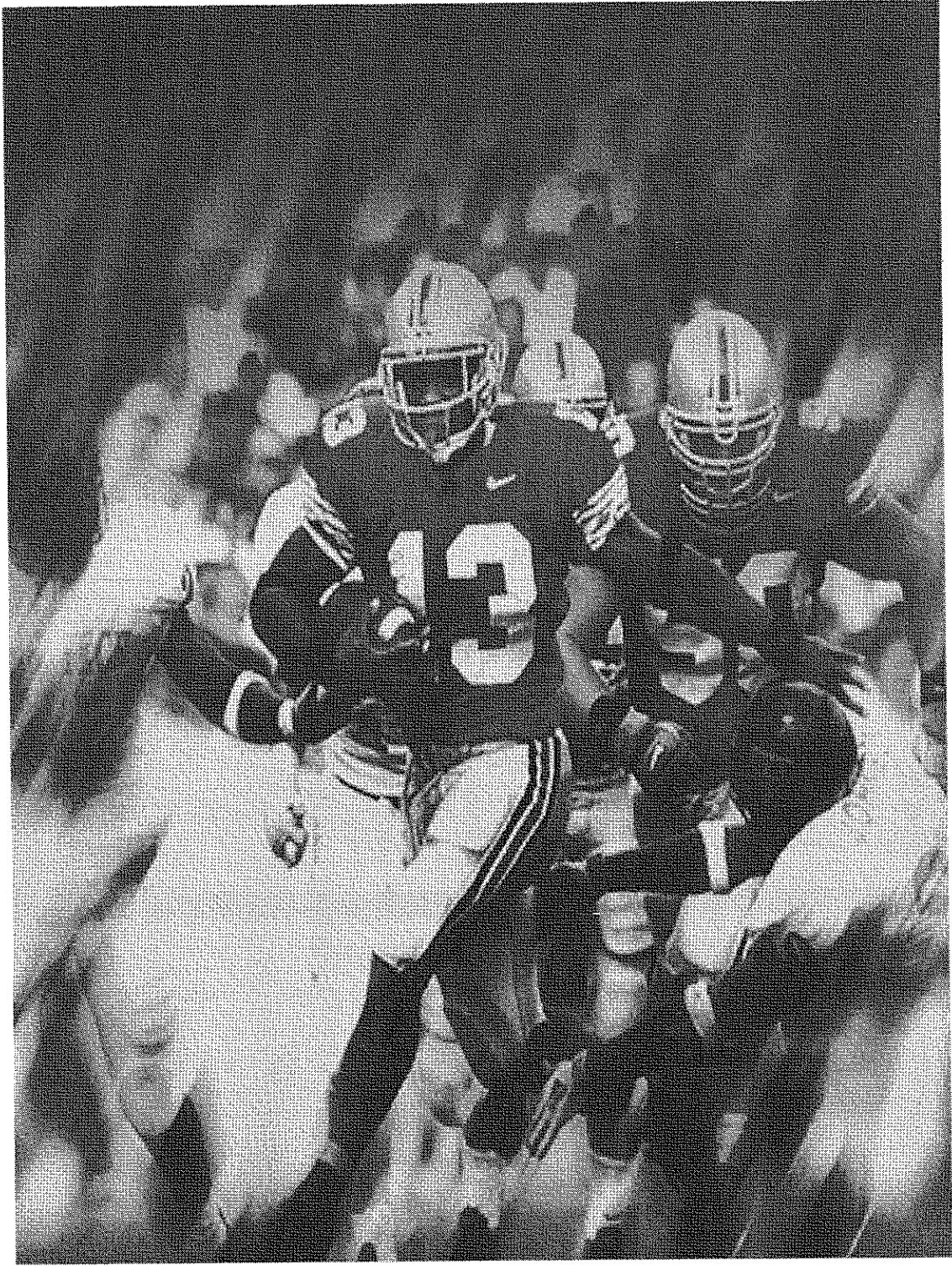
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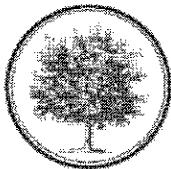
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

House Substitute Budget: A Missed Opportunity for Bold Reform

By Greg R. Lawson

April 28, 2017

On April 25, the **Ohio House Finance Committee** unveiled its first round of amendments ([download PDF](#)) to the Governor's proposed biennial operating budget, House Bill 49. Even with a few bright spots, the House's first attempt is not nearly as bold as the 2015 budget, it does not make the necessary spending cuts that leadership recently acknowledged, and it will soon be lamented for missing an opportunity to achieve real reform.

Overview

First, the good news. House Bill 49 rightly eliminates most-but not all-of the "tax shifting" that permeated the Governor's proposal. The bill also retains the basic contours of the Governor's school funding proposal, including better mechanisms for allowing state money to follow the student. The House also re-asserts the General Assembly's control over federal dollars by reining in Ohio's Controlling Board. And finally, the

House largely adopts the Governor's proposed criminal justice reforms that will keep low-level, non-violent offenders from state prisons.

Now, the bad news. The Governor and legislative leadership recently warned that Ohio needed to reduce spending by roughly \$800 million. The spending cuts in House Bill 49 fall well short of that mark. Much of the proposal's \$2.5 billion of "savings" can be attributed to accounting tricks and fiscal slight-of-hand, and such "on paper savings" don't amount to significant real savings.

The House budget, for example, does little to give the state a better grip on Medicaid spending-the "Pac-Man" of Ohio's budget-and the last biennial budget offered better Medicaid reforms than this one. Thus, the House misses an opportunity to make the kind of meaningful spending cuts that will make it easier for Ohio to pursue fundamental tax reforms.

The Governor's proposal begins to reform Ohio's arcane municipal income tax structure-the House guts that proposal, and then litters the budget with a trail of dubious licensing fee increases. The last House budget recognized Ohio's urgent need to reform her labor laws in order to compete with her reform-minded neighbors-but not this budget. No real tax or labor reforms here, just more opportunities missed.

Fortunately, the current House Bill 49 is not the final word on the matter. The House plans to move the budget next week, leaving a limited-but possible-opportunity for cooler heads to prevail and better policies to be included. With such hope in mind, a fuller analysis of key features of House Bill 49 follows.

The Buckeye Institute urges members of the House to continue look for additional savings-did we mention our Piglet Book?-and to embrace far more robust Medicaid and labor reforms.

Eliminates Most Tax Shifting

We generally support tax proposals designed to move Ohio from an income-tax structure to more of a consumption-tax state. But we have long-standing concerns about making that shift too quickly. In our view, any sound, structural tax reform must first be preceded by lower government spending to help resist the inevitable temptation to balance the budget and pay for tax reform by increasing taxes.

We therefore commend the House for eliminating much of the "tax shifting" that effectively allows the government to pick "winners" and "losers" in the market. The

House budget, for example, does not include a new tax on vapor, or a severance tax hike, or a tobacco tax increase. Well done. The House also eliminated the Governor's plan to expand the sales tax to include most services-with the unfortunate exception of extending the state sales tax to online travel agencies.

Municipal Income Tax Reform

One of the Governor's better ideas in the FY 2018-2019 budget proposed moving to centralize the tax collection process for businesses across the state. Ohio's municipal income tax structure is among the nation's worst and most burdensome-and, as we have argued repeatedly, simplifying this byzantine system is long overdue.

Unfortunately, the House's substitute budget eviscerates the Governor's reform and then proceeds to charge taxpayers for trying to file a single state tax form-essentially taxing the taxpayer as he attempts to pay his taxes. Insult, meet injury.

We suggest either returning to the Governor's proposal or centralizing tax collections in a single location without levying any additional administrative fees for filing taxes.

Budget "Savings" and Spending Restraint

House Bill 49 purports to cut an additional \$2.5 billion from the Governor's proposal over the next two years, with nearly \$923 million of those "savings" coming from reductions in the General Revenue Fund. Thus, the House budget appears to remain in stride with inflation.

Many of the so-called spending cuts, however, may be more illusory than they at first appear. The House budget claims to save more than \$1 billion from Medicaid, for example, but it remains unclear whether these are real savings or merely deft accounting tricks.

Similarly, \$944 million of the \$2.5 billion "savings" are attributed to reducing the amount the state spends as fiduciary for collecting municipal income net profits taxes. House Bill 49 does reduce the overall appropriations for this function, but this hardly qualifies as "state spending" when these are local tax dollars that the state simply collects and then redistributes to the appropriate localities.

To be sure, the House budget does take some laudable steps forward to restrain spending. The House froze, for instance, the **State Share of Instruction**, which subsidizes Ohio Institutions of Higher Learning; and eliminated unnecessary subsidies for the Ohioana Library Association. Such subsidies give public institutions less

incentive to economize, reduce costs, increase quality, and otherwise behave like rational actors in a free marketplace.

The House also curtailed the Controlling Board's unilateral authority to use more than \$10 million of unexpected federal funds. This reform empowers the General Assembly-and not the Controlling Board-when deciding which federal programs Ohio should join. Had this measure been in place several years ago, Ohio most likely would not have participated in the disastrous Medicaid expansion that was joined against the will of the General Assembly.

We remain encouraged by the House's tribute to fiscal restraint, but earmarks continue to burrow their way into the budget and more cost-cutting is needed in order to bring state spending down to responsible, sustainable levels. See our **Piglet Book** for more examples of how Columbus can trim the fat.

Criminal Justice Reform

We applaud the House for affirming the Governor's proposal to rehabilitate low-level offenders locally rather than in state-run facilities. More than 95 percent of those who go to prison return to our communities. Low-level offenders who serve time in state prisons often return even more hardened and more dangerous than when they began their sentence.

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Ohio must pursue policies that protect communities while keeping as many low-level offenders out of prison as safely possible. As we have **explained**, community treatment is twice as effective at one-third the cost, making our communities safer and saving taxpayer money in the long run.

The Governor's budget would require non-violent, non-sex offenders to be rehabilitated locally, and authorize the **Department of Rehabilitation and Correction** to grant counties money to offset the added costs of rehabilitation. State judges participating in a pilot rehabilitation program support the Governor's proposal, while the Ohio Judicial Conference and Prosecuting Attorneys Association have opposed the measure. House Bill 49 struck a compromise that will allow counties to send up to 15 percent of their non-violent, non-sex offenders to prison-a compromise that we believe will save money and make our communities safer.

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Education Reform

House Bill 49 rightly embraces the contours of Governor Kasich's education proposal. That proposal begins unwinding the inherent problems of "caps" and "guarantees" that distort the accuracy of the Foundation Funding Formula (the designated amount spent on each public school student from the General Revenue Fund and lottery profits). "Guarantees" allow districts with declining enrollment to maintain previous funding levels despite serving fewer students, and "caps" prevent districts with growing enrollment levels from receiving the formula's full amount.

Although we applaud the House's effort here, we wish that it was not exceeding the Governor's already respectable Foundation Funding by expanding "racino" gambling that may expose the state to expensive litigation. Two cheers for education reform!

Medicaid Reform

We remain cautiously optimistic-or perhaps hopefully skeptical-that the House's Medicaid spending cuts will actually materialize. House Bill 49 allows Mr. Kasich's Administration to seek a waiver from Washington to add several requirements-including work requirements-to the state's expanded Medicaid population. This is a reasonable, but insufficient first step toward reversing Ohio's Medicaid expansion, and the bill's loose language is riddled with loopholes that threaten to render the reforms ineffective. Compounding our skepticism, the House failed to include the last budget's *Healthy Ohio* waiver that the Obama Administration denied.

Ohio policymakers should be taking full advantage of the current climate in Washington and pushing for innovative Medicaid "**1332 waivers**" to alleviate some of the onerous burdens of Medicaid by helping people get out of the program. For the first time in years, the federal government wants to increase state flexibility in Medicaid programs, and House Bill 49 fails to take advantage of a golden opportunity to pursue bolder reforms that will pare back Medicaid. Again-opportunity averted.

Health Care Transparency Reform

House Bill 49 regrettably waters-down some positive reforms designed to make health care more transparent. Though not a cure for rising health care costs, transparency and patient access to more information can help the market and consumer preferences drive down costs. Another opportunity needlessly wasted.

Licensing Reform

As we have argued, Ohio must address her burdensome occupational licensing scheme. By consolidating several licensing boards and commissions, Governor Kasich and House Bill 49 have taken baby-steps toward helping workers achieve their full

professional potential. We continue to advocate administrative savings, and have championed lowering-rather than raising-licensing fees for prospective licensees. The House budget also makes telemedicine services more available and expands occupational freedom for certified nurse practitioners by allowing them to help more patients receive medicine. We see these reforms helping health care providers monitor and treat patients more efficiently and effectively, which will ultimately reduce health care costs.

Labor Reform

House Bill 49 lacks any meaningful labor reform. Where previous budgets made at least some effort to amend Ohio laws on "project labor agreements" or making prevailing wages optional at the local level, this House budget is eerily silent. Even relatively minor labor reforms can help ease burdens on businesses and local governments, thereby reducing costs and spurring economic growth. Labor reform is an opportunity that the House can ill afford to miss.

Conclusion

Fortunately, House Bill 49 will not have the last say on these matters. The full House must still vote on the budget before sending it to the Senate, which gives policymakers time and, *ahem*, opportunity to improve upon the current draft.

The Legislative Service Commission has compiled **these resources** for exploring the gritty details of the budget, including a comparison of House Bill 49 and the Governor's initial proposal.

Greg R. Lawson is the senior policy analyst at The Buckeye Institute.

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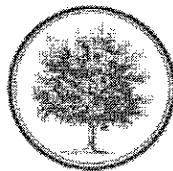
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Ladies and Gentlemen, we did not receive any baskets of goodies on our doorstep this morning. Yet we are still offering two gifts to the world today.

First, if you have ever dreamed you could be part of Buckeye's top notch team, and you have the skills and can-do attitude we require, today could be your lucky day: [Buckeye is hiring](#).

With May flowers and barely-observed holidays comes new growth in our organization. We told you a few weeks ago about our impressive new VP of Comms Lisa Gates, and now--hot off the press--we can announce that Quinn Beeson is joining us later this week as Buckeye's new Economic Research Analyst.

However, for your May Day enjoyment (in lieu of that lovely basket for which you were hoping), we have [another position that we just opened today for your consideration](#). Take a look, send it on to anyone you think might be a good fit, or apply yourself. We are searching for the best person we can find and expect a competitive process, but we hope that it might be you who wins the position! Feel free to encourage others to apply as well.

In other news, last week the Ohio House passed its version of the state budget... which, in the words of Buckeye's own Greg Lawson, "will soon be lamented for missing an opportunity to achieve real reform." That's not our gift to you.

Our second special May Day gift to the world is that Greg pulls no punches in his analysis of the House version in a new blog found here: *House Substitute Budget: A Missed Opportunity for Bold Reform*.

We recommend enjoying it along with an aptly named cocktail!

There were some bright spots in the House budget, but unfortunately it failed to cut the \$800 million that the Governor and legislative leadership recently said was necessary. And the \$2.5 billion of "savings" it did find can be attributed to accounting tricks and fiscal slight-of-hand. If you took a small sip of that aforementioned cocktail for every dollar that... wait, no. Don't do that.

If only a nationally recognized policy organization had offered a blueprint on where cost savings could be found in the budget... ahem, see our Piglet Book!

Fortunately, the House version is not the final budget, so policymakers still have time to take bold action. If you love policy analysis and budget reviews as much as we do, you'll want to read Greg's full analysis here.

Happy May Day to one and all!

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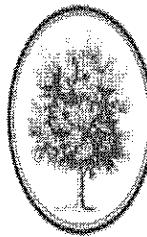
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You're invited!

With the Ohio House passing its version of the budget, we know you are looking for something to do Wednesday evening.

You're in luck, we have the perfect evening planned.

The Buckeye Institute, along with U.S. Justice Action Network, are hosting a panel discussion with a serious lineup of all-stars. We're talking about criminal justice, and you will want to be there to hear it for yourself.

Your Ohio State 2002 national championship running back Maurice Clarett is in the house. Maurice will share his personal story. Feel free to bring a tissue if you have a

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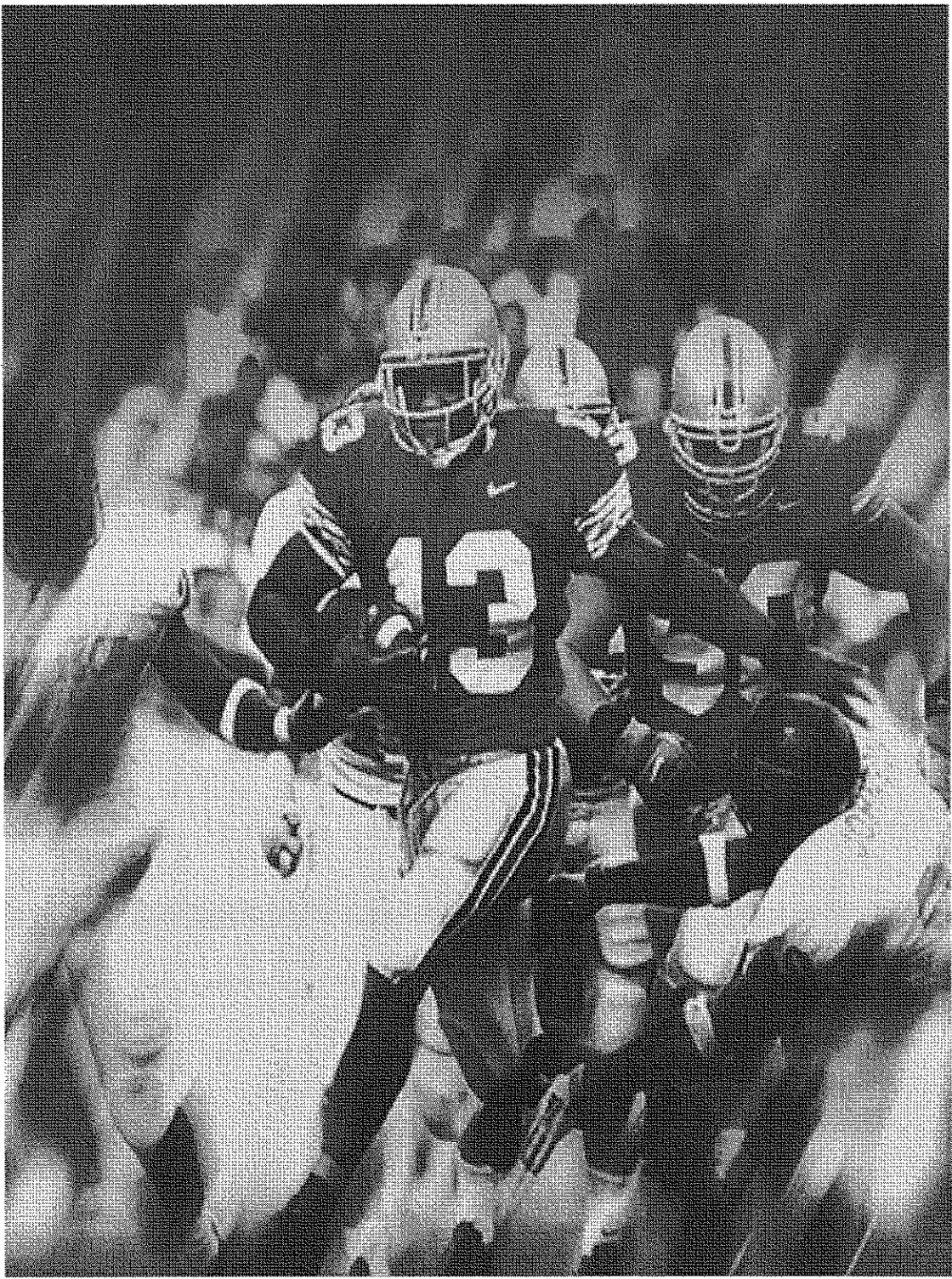
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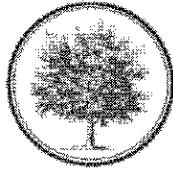
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 04, 2017

Buckeye Institute Statement on April's Revenue Shortfall

Columbus, OH - "Yesterday's distressing revenue numbers show that the need for Ohio to cut spending has grown. The Buckeye Institute continues to offer our [2017 Piglet Book](#) as a roadmap for the Ohio Senate to find additional savings.

"The continuing revenue problems should make clear just how much Ohio must do to turbo-charge its economy through further tax, labor, and regulatory reform. It is not the time to turn back previous reforms, to delay future reforms, or to raid the 'Rainy Day Fund.' It's time to grow the economy faster.

"Finally, this shows the wisdom of the Ohio House to tackle the Pac-Man of the state budget, Medicaid, through spending guardrails and creative policies like 'Healthy Ohio' and the state innovation waiver. Together these can transform the state health climate while getting a grip on spending. There is more work to be done in this area, but make no

mistake, a failure to reform here means the red ink will grow deeper and drown Ohio's hopes for a brighter future."

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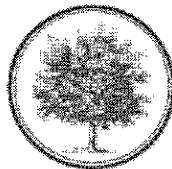
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The Red Tape Rollback campaign, which The Buckeye Institute is a proud partner of, is defending the U.S. Constitution and ensuring that unaccountable government bureaucrats aren't imposing burdensome regulations on citizens.

As a part of this campaign, the Pacific Legal Foundation is defending the Congressional Review Act in the case *Center for Biological Diversity v. Zinke*. You can read their news release below and learn more about Red Tape Rollback campaign at www.redtaperollback.com.

PLF STEPS UP TO DEFEND CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT IN COURT

As a leading CRA champion, PLF will litigate against an environmental group's confused constitutional challenge

Anchorage, Alaska; May 4, 2017: Pacific Legal Foundation has just stepped forward to defend the Congressional Review Act (CRA), the 1996 statute that allows Congress to rein in bureaucracies by voiding harmful regulations.

PLF is the first of two groups to move to intervene against a federal lawsuit by an environmental activist group - the Center for Biological Diversity - which claims, astonishingly, that Congress and the president violate the Constitution when they pass a law that rescinds a bureaucracy's regulation. With its motion to intervene, PLF has also filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit, arguing that CBD's challenge has no basis in the Constitution, the Congressional Review Act, or court precedent and should be immediately booted out of court. PLF is the only group in the litigation that has sought a dismissal.

"CBD's lawsuit seeks to turn the Constitution on its head, placing unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats above Congress," said PLF attorney Jonathan Wood. "Under our Constitution, administrative agencies only have power that Congress chooses to delegate to them. Congress is free to limit its delegation of power as it sees fit. What Congress gives, it can take away, or curtail. Using the Congressional Review Act to strike down an agency's regulatory decrees is an example of that constitutional principle in action."

Under the CRA, agencies must submit every rule they adopt to Congress for review. Congress then has a brief time to use expedited procedures to enact a resolution of disapproval and send it to the president for his signature. Congress and President Trump have used the CRA 13 times to void Obama Administration rules. CBD's lawsuit focuses on the rescinding of a regulation against hunting and trapping of predator species in Alaska's national refuges - a restriction that interfered with the state's ability to manage wildlife and outlawed responsible hunting practices, undermining opportunities to responsibly hunt for food or pursue income from guided hunts.

In seeking to intervene in *Center for Biological Diversity v. Zinke*, in defense of the CRA's constitutionality, PLF represents itself along with several key hunting organizations and individuals. They include: Alaska Outdoor Council, Big Game Forever, and Alaska Master Guides Kurt Whitehead and Joe Letarte, both of whom also hunt in their personal time.

CRA is fully consistent with the Constitution

"Schoolhouse Rock has taught generations of children how a bill becomes a law under the Constitution," said Todd Gaziano, PLF's DC Director and Senior Fellow in Constitutional Law, as well as the director of PLF's Red Tape Rollback project. "CBD could use a refresher. When a majority of both houses of Congress pass a bill disapproving an agency rule and the president signs it, we call that a law, and this applies as much to legislation passed under the CRA as to any other form of legislation. Laws enacted using the Congressional Review Act's procedures are fully consistent with the Constitution."

PLF's intervention in this litigation reflects its established role as a leading CRA champion. The Red Tape Rollback project, founded and overseen by PLF, is a multipronged program to educate Congress and the public on dynamic ways to deploy the CRA against regulatory overreach. A significant coalition of think tanks and public interest groups has joined this project, including The Club for Growth, The Heritage Foundation, The Buckeye Institute, Competitive Enterprise Institute, and State Policy Network as Founding Partners; and Cause of Action Institute, R Street, Independent Women's Forum, and Center of the American Experiment as Partners.

"The Congressional Review Act is essential to restoring our elected representatives to their proper role overseeing the administrative state," Gaziano said. "As the foremost independent advocate for strategic use of the CRA, and as a leading litigator against regulatory abuses by the administrative state in general, PLF brings a unique interest and expertise to this litigation. For this reason, PLF's intervention is more than appropriate - it is essential."

The case is *Center for Biological Diversity v. Zinke*.

Case Documents

- [Motion to Intervene](#)
- [Motion to Dismiss](#)
- [Declaration of Gaziano for PLF](#)

About Pacific Legal Foundation

Pacific Legal Foundation, America's most powerful ally for justice, litigates in courts nationwide for limited government, property rights, individual liberty, and a balanced approach to environmental regulations. PLF represents all clients free of charge.

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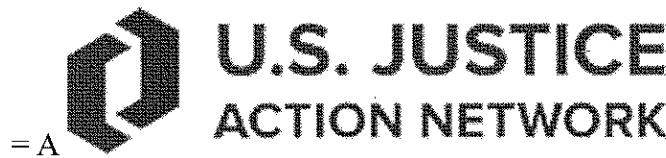
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From: U.S. Justice Action Network
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2017 3:46 PM
To: Rep07
Subject: ICYMI— Maurice Clarett, Gary Mohr, & Buckeye Institute Advocate for Smart Justice Reforms

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ICYMI: All Star Panel Moves the Ball Forward on Smart Justice Reforms in Ohio



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ICYMI: All Star Panel Moves the Ball Forward on Smart Justice Reforms in Ohio

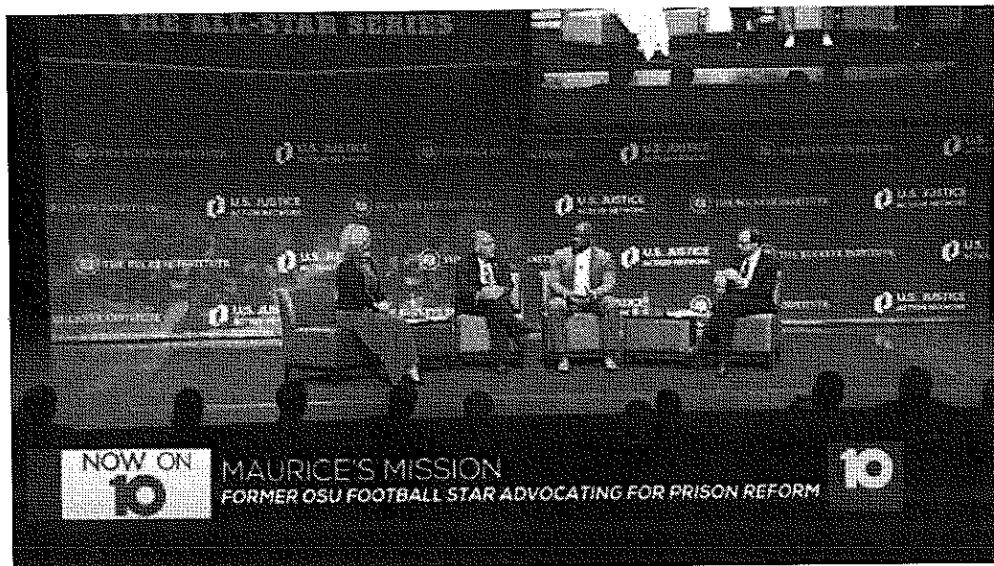
Ohioans are reading about Ohio State University football legend Maurice Clarett's leadership in Columbus once again, this time as an advocate for justice reform. Last week, Clarett joined Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Director Gary Mohr and the president of The Buckeye Institute, Robert Alt, along with the U.S. Justice Action Network, to share how his personal experience with the justice system motivated him to take action.

Bleacher Report: [Maurice Clarett: From football to prison to justice reform advocate](#)

"Sports are no longer Maurice Clarett's business, or his primary interest, but he can't escape the terminology of the game. The nonprofit he co-founded last year in his native Youngstown, Ohio, to help the city's families and at-risk youth? It's called The Red Zone. He equates the role of warden in a correctional facility with that of a head coach; both, he says, are tasked with developing the skills

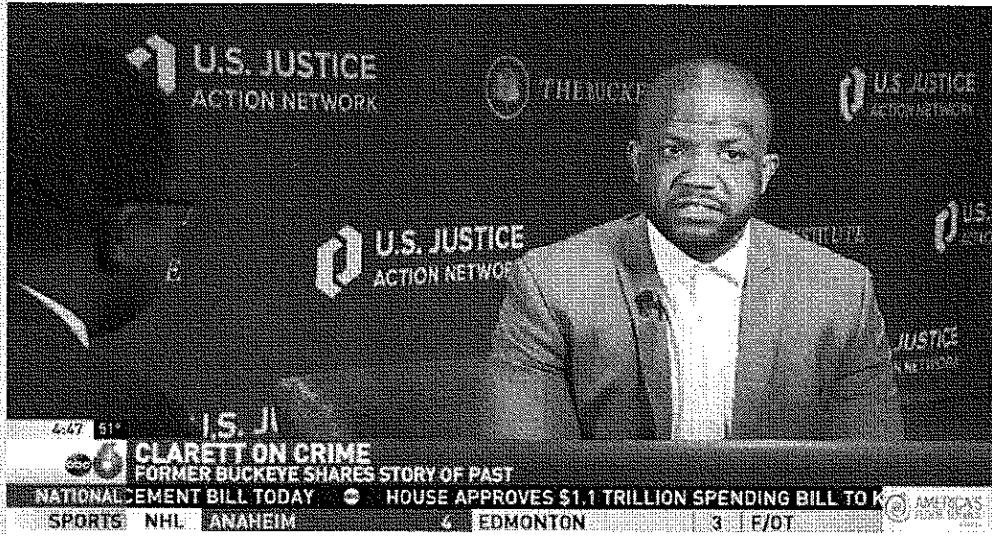
of the people under their charge. Discussing the social and economic factors that lead to high recidivism rates, he sounds like a pundit scouring a box score: "The numbers," he insists, "don't lie."

CBS Columbus (VIDEO): Maurice Clarett: From fallen football star to prison reform advocate

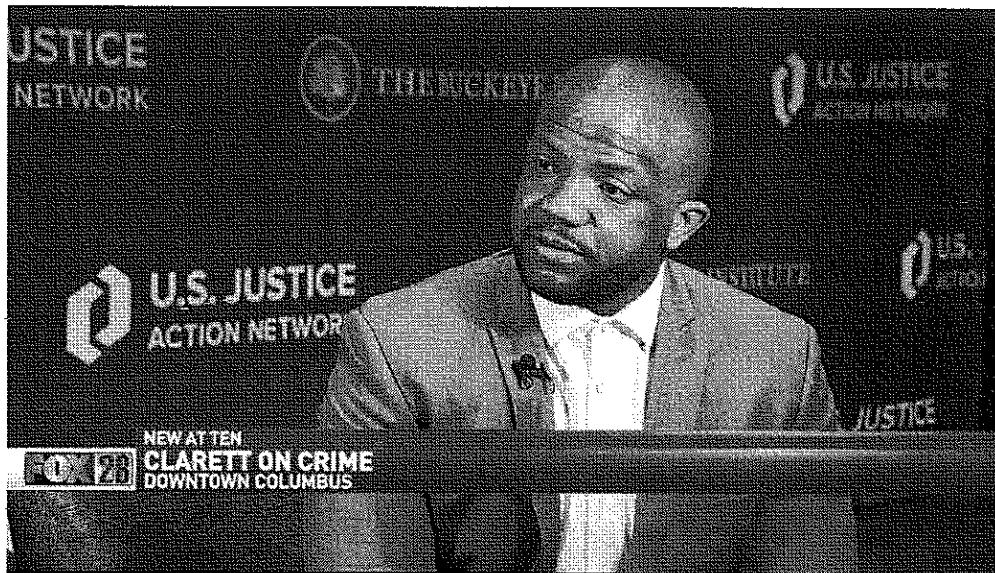


"Former Buckeye Maurice Clarett joined the Buckeye Institute, the U.S. Justice Action Network and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to urge lawmakers to support reform in justice and prison programs. "One of the best things I did while in prison was work on mind, body, spirit," said Clarett as he spoke openly about his public send-off to prison."

ABC Good Day Columbus (VIDEO): Clarett on Crime: Former Buckeye Shares Story of Past



Fox 28 Columbus (VIDEO): Former OSU star Clarett hopes troubled past can keep others on positive path



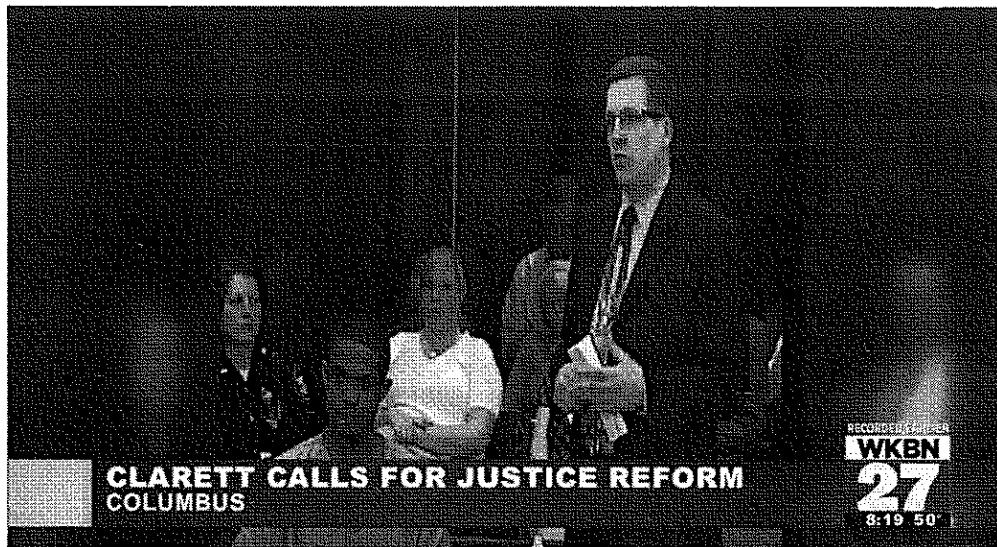
"One thing Clarett can control is his personal story. He shared it during a conversation about smart on crime policies in the criminal justice system. The U.S. Justice Action Network organized the conversation called, Smart Justice. "We're putting too many people behind bars for too long and

"we're throwing up obstacles to their successful return to society," said Holly Harris, executive director for the U.S. Justice Action Network."

NBC4 Columbus (VIDEO): Former OSU star Maurice Clarett advocates for criminal justice reform

"Clarett says he aggressively sought help from others in and out of prison. But he says inmates need more access to case workers, social workers and psychologists inside prison and more resources and professional help when they are released from prison. "In this state where we have so many resources, if we just allocate them to professionals being in contact with the most vulnerable people. I think it helped me."

CBS Youngstown (Video): Clarett participates in criminal justice panel



The Lantern: Maurice Clarett shares personal experiences in push for Ohio criminal-justice reform

[Director of Rehabilitation and Correction Gary Mohr] and [President of The Buckeye Institute Robert Alt] each said that many times with politicians, they look at numbers when contemplating criminal-

justice reform rather than the faces of those incarcerated. Clarett is a rare case of someone who lost everything and was able to gain part of that back and give back much more to the community than he would have been able to give as an athlete. Clarett and the people of the women's reformatory choir are the faces that Mohr, Alt and all legislators supporting Senate Bill 66 and TCAP want the public to see when considering prison reform. "Maurice has lived it in his almost four years of incarceration. He understands," Mohr said. "He is more influential than any politician because he has lived it and he's real. He doesn't have some facade. He's real. Quite frankly, I think it's much more effective than being a politician because I think Maurice's story is credible."

Columbus Dispatch Oped: [Column: Route to 'village' started in Toledo prison cell](#)

"My arrest and sentencing made national headlines, but a lot of 22-year-old men land in jail for making bad decisions. We should do a better job getting them the help they need, not just lock them away. I wish everyone in prison could find their own Khellah Konteh, someone who can show them the path to rehabilitation, and every prison system could have its own Gary Mohr. Because there is a lot more we all can do to help troubled people find their way back to the village."



Michelle Everhart

@meverhart26

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.@ReeseClarett13 talks about prison and turning his life around.



Columbus Dispatch @DispatchAlerts

Maurice Clarett commentary: How time in a Toledo prison cell turned my life around, & how others can also be helped
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WAKR (Arkon): AUDIO: Maurice Clarett On Criminal Justice Reform

"Maurice Clarett knows what it's like to be on the inside. He's using that experience to try to reform the system...On Wednesday, Clarett will return to Columbus for an event sponsored by the U.S. Justice Action Network in support of two criminal justice reform initiatives. Senate Bill 66 would widen eligibility for substance abuse treatment in lieu of incarceration, while an element of Gov. John Kasich's state budget proposal would allow for more funding to house nonviolent, first-time offenders in community-based facilities instead of prison."

WAKR (Arkon) Audio: Holly Harris, U.S. Justice Action Network: Justice Reform, Getting

Sentencing Right

92.3 The Fan (Cleveland) Audio: Maurice Clarett Discusses A New Perspective On Life, Using His Story For A Good Cause

The U.S. Justice Action Network is the first action organization in the country to bring together progressive and conservative partners, collaborate with law enforcement, and employ federal and state-specific lobbying, public advocacy, and public education efforts to pass sweeping criminal justice reforms.

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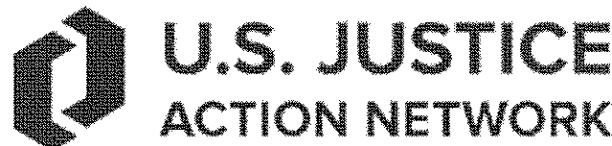
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From: Holly Harris
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 2:22 PM
To: Rep07
Subject: ICYMI: Ohio Can't Punt on Justice Reform

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Dear

Policymakers,

Last week, we hosted our all-star panel on justice reform in Columbus, Ohio. Hearing former Ohio State National Championship running back Maurice Clarett's personal story of his rise, fall, and redemption pulled at the heartstrings of everyone in the room. But now it's time for action. If Ohio is to live up to the promise of leading on justice reform issues, it must take concrete action this legislative session.



While Ohio has made some tremendous reforms to its justice system, the state still incarcerates over 51,000 people at a cost to taxpayers of \$70 a person, per day. As we heard from Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Director Gary Mohr, an expansion of the Targeting Community Alternatives to Prison (T-CAP) program, included in this year's budget, could divert more low-level nonviolent offenders to community-based

supervision rather than prison, a much-needed step forward. Senator John Eklund's SB 66 would expand access to drug and alcohol treatment and record sealing, while more effectively addressing technical violations. On top of all of that, the House of Representatives is working on legislation to further improve public safety and cut costs.

We agree with Robert Alt, President of the Buckeye Institute, that these reforms will make Ohio's justice system more effective and efficient, which means Ohio communities will be safer and taxpayers will get more bang for their buck. So let's pass these reforms, and put Buckeye Nation where it belongs...at the top!

Thank you,

Holly

Holly Harris, U.S. Justice Action Network

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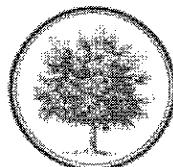
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From: The Buckeye Institute
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Subject: BUCKEYE POLICY BRIEF: Increasing the Cigarette Tax Will Send Ohio's Budget Up in Smoke

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Below please find The Buckeye Institute's latest policy brief: *Increasing the Cigarette Tax Will Send Ohio's Budget Up in Smoke* ([download PDF](#)). Authored by Lukas Spitzwieser, the piece looks at the impact increasing taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products will have on Ohio's economy and state revenues.

Buckeye's research found that:

- Raising taxes on cigarettes will lead to higher rates of smuggling and smuggling-related crime.
- Many retail businesses - including grocery stores and gas stations - in Ohio's border counties will suffer a decline in sales as more Ohioans cross into neighboring states to buy tobacco products along with their groceries.
- Although raising cigarette taxes may reduce smoking, some of the expected health benefits may prove overstated, and by extending the tax to vapor products the proposal will actually reduce incentives for current smokers to switch to less-harmful e-cigarettes.

- Tobacco tax hikes violate basic principles of a sound tax policy by unevenly burdening a declining tax base and disproportionately harming the poorest in our communities.

In conclusion Spitzwieser said, "Rather than raising regressive taxes paid disproportionately by Ohio's poor, policymakers should confront budget shortfalls by looking for ways to spur economic growth and reduce government spending."

If you have questions or would like to discuss this issue further, please contact Lisa Gates at 614-224-3255 or lisa@buckeyeinstitute.org.

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The Buckeye Institute Policy Brief

Increasing the Cigarette Tax Will Send Ohio's Budget Up in Smoke By Lukas Spitzwieser

In his latest executive budget, Governor Kasich has again proposed raising Ohio's tax rates on tobacco products from \$1.60 to \$2.25 per pack. Mr. Kasich's budget also proposes raising the tax rate on other tobacco products (OTP) from 17% to 69% of the wholesale price, and extending the OTP tax to include vapor products such as e-cigarettes.

Despite generating additional revenues for the state, the Governor's proposed tax increases will likely do more harm than good for Ohio. First, raising taxes on cigarettes will lead to higher rates of smuggling and smuggling-related crime. Second, many retail businesses - including grocery stores and gas stations - in Ohio's border counties will suffer a decline in sales as more Ohioans cross into neighboring states to buy tobacco products along with their groceries. Third, although raising cigarette taxes may reduce smoking, some of the expected health benefits may prove overstated, and by extending the OTP tax to vapor products the Governor's proposal will actually reduce incentives for current smokers to switch to less-harmful e-cigarettes. Finally, tobacco tax hikes violate basic principles of a sound tax policy by unevenly burdening a declining tax base and disproportionately harming the poorest in our communities.

Ohio collected more than \$1bn in tobacco taxes from smokers in FY2016, accounting for roughly 3% of the state's General Revenue Fund. But increasing the state tax rate on cigarettes creates greater price differences relative to low tobacco tax states like Kentucky (currently taxing cigarettes at 60 cents per pack). Smokers, like other consumers, will take

steps to avoid paying higher taxes, especially when tax rates rise dramatically or are considerably higher than nearby states. On a small scale, for example, consumers will engage in "casual smuggling" and cross state lines to buy their cigarettes in lower-tax states. On a much larger scale, criminal organizations routinely engage in "commercial smuggling" and ship large quantities of cigarettes from low-tax states to high-tax states and then sell contraband cigarettes at a discount to the high-tax price.

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy estimates that roughly 7.7% of cigarettes consumed in Ohio in 2014 were smuggled in by commercial smugglers. And in 2014, Ohio still taxed cigarettes at only \$1.25 per pack, well below the current \$1.60 per pack or the proposed \$2.25 per pack. More recent data has not yet been published, but it is reasonable to expect that higher taxes will lead to even higher rates of both casual and commercial smuggling. New York, for instance, has the highest per-pack taxes (\$4.35 with an additional \$1.50 for New York City) and it leads the nation in smuggled cigarettes, with approximately 55% of the Empire State's cigarettes smuggled illicitly in 2014.[1]

Among Ohio's neighbors, only Michigan and Pennsylvania currently levy higher taxes on tobacco consumers than the Buckeye State, and raising the cigarette and OTP taxes further would leave even Michigan in our wake. (See Table 1.) Raising tobacco taxes will increase the profit and savings incentives for the commercial and casual smugglers. And because consumers - the "casual smugglers" - often buy cigarettes in the course of shopping for groceries and other sundry products, one might expect that those other purchases soon will be made across the border, too. As tobacco users take their business into Kentucky, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania, Ohio's retailers along border counties inevitably will suffer.

Table 1: Tobacco Taxes in Ohio's Neighboring States

	Cigarettes	OTP
Ohio	160 cents	17%
Ohio (proposed increase)	225 cents	69%
Indiana	99.5 cents	24%
Kentucky	60 cents	= A 15%
Michigan	200 cents	32%
Pennsylvania	260 cents	None
West Virginia	120 cents	12%

Source: States' budget offices.

Note: Tax on cigarettes per pack of 20 cigarettes, OTP as percent of wholesale price. Data as of May 1, 2017.

Many presume that raising taxes on tobacco products will reduce smoking in Ohio and therefore have positive public health effects in addition to generating more state revenues. Smoking and tobacco consumption are unhealthy. The net public health benefits attributable to higher priced tobacco, however, are much less clear. Although some tobacco users will "kick the habit" or reduce their tobacco use due to higher prices, others will not. And of those who continue to smoke despite the higher price, some will smoke in unhealthier ways even as they consume fewer cigarettes. Researchers Jérôme Adda and Francesca Cornaglio (2013) have shown, for example, that smokers will extract more nicotine per cigarette in order to compensate for tobacco tax hikes. By consuming each cigarette more intensely or by smoking cigarettes as close to the filter as possible, the harmful effects of cigarettes actually rise rather than fall. Tax hikes also affect smokers' choice of cigarettes, prompting some to switch to cheaper brands that often have higher tar and nicotine levels.[2]

Higher tobacco taxes may encourage some smokers to switch to e-cigarettes or other vapor products that are generally believed to be less harmful than tobacco smoking. Public Health England, for example, concluded that "vaping" e-cigarettes is 95% safer than traditional smoking.[3] Because e-cigarettes do not contain nicotine or tar they offer smokers a less addictive and less carcinogenic alternative. Indeed, toxicants are 9-450 times lower in e-cigarettes than in regular cigarettes.[4] As many smokers try to quit smoking they require a temporary, less addictive substitute. For some, e-cigarettes are an effective aid on the road to a smoke-free life.[5] Unfortunately, by extending the new OTP tax rate of 69% (on wholesale prices) to vapor products, Governor Kasich's recommendation negates the potential savings incentive for traditional smokers to switch to less harmful e-cigarettes. Thus, the state is unlikely to reap the full public health benefits that might be realized if more smokers had a financial incentive to wean themselves from nicotine on e-cigarettes.

Finally, sound, sustainable tax policies distribute the tax burden evenly across a constant tax base.[6] Tobacco taxes violate this principle. Smoking prevalence and per-capita cigarette sales have declined across the nation for decades, and from 1970 to 2014 per-capita cigarette sales in Ohio have fallen from 122 to 53 packs per year.[7] In light of such trends, Ohio's Office of Budget and Management assumes that even without a tax increase tobacco sales will continue to decline by 2.5% annually.[8] Under the proposed tax increase, however, the average price per pack of cigarettes will rise by 10%, which means that cigarette sales will decline by 4%, assuming a price elasticity of -0.4 as economist Frank Chaloupka estimates.[9]

These declining consumption trend lines make tobacco taxes unsustainable. Moreover, higher tobacco taxes affect low-income Ohioans disproportionately insofar as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that smoking is twice as prevalent among adults below the poverty line (26.1%) as it is for those above the poverty line (13.9%).^[10] Thus, tobacco taxes are regressive and burden the poorest in our communities the most-another violation of sound tax policy.

Conclusion

Despite laudable intentions to boost revenues and enhance public health, raising and expanding Ohio's tobacco taxes will not help Ohioans. State policymakers should reconsider the Governor's proposal. With tobacco taxes already higher than most of Ohio's neighbors, a new tax hike spiking the price of cigarettes will likely encourage more casual and commercial smuggling to the detriment of our communities and local businesses. The potential public health benefits of higher tobacco prices remain debatable at best, and raising taxes on e-cigarettes and other tobacco alternatives only reduces the likelihood of reaping those elusive net benefits. Rather than raising regressive taxes paid disproportionately by Ohio's poor, policymakers should confront budget shortfalls by looking for ways to spur economic growth and reduce government spending.

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- [1] LaFaive M., Nesbit T., & Drenkard S. (2016). **Cigarette Taxes and Smuggling: A 2016 Update**. Mackinac Center for Public Policy.
 - [2] Adda, J., & Cornaglia, F. (2013). **Taxes, cigarette consumption, and smoking intensity: reply**. The American Economic Review, 103(7), 3102-3114.
 - [3] McNeill A., Brose L.S., Calder R., & Hitchman S.C. (2015). **E-cigarettes: an evidence update**. A report commissioned by Public Health England.
 - [4] Goniewicz M.L., Knysak J., Gawron M., et al. (2013). **Levels of selected carcinogens and toxicants in vapor from electronic cigarettes**. Tob Control 2013;0:1-7.
 - [5] Bullen, C., Howe, C., Laugesen, M., McRobbie, H., Parag, V., Williman, J., & Walker, N. (2013). **Electronic cigarettes for smoking cessation: a randomised controlled trial**. The Lancet, 382(9905), 1629-1637.
 - [6] Rea S. Hederman Jr, Tom Lampan, Greg R. Lawson and Joe Nichols, **Tax Reform Principles for Ohio**, February 2, 2015.
 - [7] Orzechowski & Walker (2014). **The Tax Burden on Tobacco: Historical Compilation**. 49.
 - [8] Ohio Office of Budget and Management (2017). **Budget Recommendations. The State of Ohio Executive Budget**. Fiscal Years 2018-2019.
 - [9] The price elasticity measures how consumers respond to price changes in one variable. In this case, if the price of cigarettes increase the elasticity measures how many fewer cigarettes are bought due to the price change.
- Chaloupka, F. & Huang, J. (2015). **A significant cigarette tax rate increase in Ohio would produce**

a large, sustained increase in state tobacco tax revenues. Prepared for Tobacconomics. Institute for Health Research and Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago.

[10] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2016). Current Cigarette Smoking Among Adults-United States, 2005-2015. Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report, 65(44): 1205-1211.

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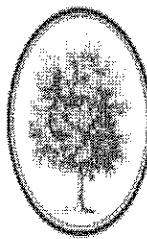
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

While the kids talk, tweet, and text in abbreviations that don't translate well into adult-speak, I sometimes wonder whether words matter anymore the way they did when I was in school studying Papa Shakespeare's work: that whole chestnut about a rose going by another name? Do our students even read Shakespeare to get that reference these days? Have they seen the Merchant of Venice to understand the concept of seasoning justice with mercy?

When The Buckeye Institute began its campaign in earnest 3 years ago to reform criminal justice laws in Ohio one by one, we didn't have a clever title or marketing name or the right words, if you will, to describe our project. We simply set out to get things done and took action toward our goal. And the results of our efforts were extraordinary and remain unmatched by any state in the entire country.

To highlight a few of the reforms we are working on right now, we are co-hosting an event next week (on Wednesday, see details below) and have